Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-082 *28 April 1988*

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LD281223 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Infiltration Attempt—Two "terrorists" were killed by the IDF after they entered Israeli territory near Mount Hermon and wounded an Israeli truck driver, Jerusalem radio reported.

The infiltrators threw grenades at the truck but were then chased and killed by an IDF force in a mountainous area close to the scene of the clash the previous day.

The terrorists were intending to take hostages inside Israel, the radio said, and documents found with their bodies show they were members of the Palestine Liberation Front.

In Lebanon, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported that the DFLP claimed responsibility for the attempt to infiltrate northern Israel the previous day.

Territories—Seven residents of the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp were injured in a clash with IDF soldiers, Jerusalem radio reported. In Hebron, an attacker threw acid in the face of three Arab policemen who had returned to duty in the police force after having resigned.

The radio also reported on the reaction of Jewish settlers to the IDF's report on the 6 April Bayta incident, noting that settlement leaders "breathed a sigh of relief" when they saw its findings.

Although the report criticizes Israeli escort Romam Aldubi for firing his M-16 "irresponsibly," it also states that responsibility for the clash in Bayta rests with the Arab residents.

PLO Affairs

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Baghdad, Voice of the Masses radio reported, noting that the talks focused on the Palestinian "uprising" and ways to continue and escalate it.

Preparations for convening the forthco ning Arab summit in Algeria were discussed during an earlier meeting between 'Arafat and the Iraqi foreign minister, according to Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio.

PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi and several other Fatah officials left Damascus after holding lengthy talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam on rebuilding the Syrian-Palestinian alliance, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

A "responsible" Syrian source said it will take time to overcome differences between the two sides, the radio noted, and PFLP leader George Habash told a press conference that there are five outstanding points of disagreement.

They concern PLO-Egyptian relations; the PLO's relations with some Israeli parties; tactics to be used to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict; details of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon; and the readmission of Palestinian factions into the PLO fold.

However, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf stated that the two sides agreed on policy toward the "uprising," the Shultz initiative, the international conference, and the forthcoming Arab summit, the radio added. Khalaf also revealed that Syria will release most of the 2,000 Palestinian detainees held in Syrian jails.

As for the effects of the Damascus talks on PLO relations with Egypt, Radio Monte Carlo reported that 'Arafat has informed the Egyptian leadership through the PLO envoy in Cairo that PLO-Egyptian relations will not be harmed by the PLO-Syrian dialogue and that the question of freezing or breaking relations with Egypt was not discussed during the talks in Damascus.

The envoy told the radio there is no room for any talk about severing PLO-Egyptian relations, and he cited 'Arafat as saying the Syrian president showed "understanding" of the PLO stand on this issue.

MENA likewise reported a statement by the PLO envoy denying reports of a freeze in PLO-Egyptian relations.

Lebanon

The five-member committee assigned to resolve the Amal-Hizballah dispute has thus far failed to make progress because Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri is rejecting Hizballah demands for the return of captured positions and weapons, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

However, sources cited by IRNA termed the results of the committee meetings "satisfactory" and said the talks will continue until "all problems" are solved.

Saudi-Iranian Relations

Responding to Iranian allegations that Saudi Arabia severed relations with Iran under foreign pressure, a Saudi official told SPA that the move had been under consideration since the Iranian regime came into power and began launching hostilities against the Kingdom.

"This decision was not made on the spur of the moment," the official added. Saudi sources cited by AFP said that despite the severance of relations, Iran will be allowed to bring 45,000 pilgrims to Mecca.

An Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by INA praised the Saudi decision as "logical and brave."

In Kuwait city, a bomb exploded near the Saudi airlines offices 27 April, KUNA reported.

Gulf Conflict

In the Iran-Iraq conflict, IRNA reported that Iraq shelled Abadan 26 April, killing 1 and injuring 8 civilians. Iraq also shelled Marivan with long-range artillery, the agency added.

The Iranian envoy at the United Nations disparaged a UN report on Iraq's use of chemical weapons in Halabjah as "defective," Tehran radio reported, adding that the "unjustified delay" in its release allowed Iraq to use chemical weapons again. The envoy called on the UN to condemn Iraq for deploying chemical weapons and to ban export of their components to Iraq.

Concerning the recent U.S. attacks on Iranian oil platforms in the Gulf, KEYHAN published an interview with Iranian Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi 19 April in which he called for retaliation against the United States.

He stressed that Iranian and Hezbollah forces must attack U.S. interests in Europe and the Middle East, as well as in the United States itself. Meanwhile according to IRNA, 15 U.S. Marines injured during the 18 April clash in the Gulf were flown from Bahrain to the FRG for treatment.

Afghanistan

BAKHTAR blamed "extremist criminals" for the 27 April car bomb which exploded in a crowded area of Kabul, killing 6 and injuring 49 people. According to officials cited by TASS, the vehicle was brought in from Pakistan.

Palestinian Affairs

Salah Khalaf Says Syria To Release Palestinians

NC272036 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Palestinian official Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, has disclosed that the Syrian Government will release most of the Palestinians being detained in Syrian jails within the next few days.

Over 2,000 Palestinians are currently being held in Syrian prisons. The move, Khalaf said, will turn a new page in Syrian-PLO relations.

AL-RA'Y on PLO Meetings in Damascus, 19th PNC

JN260904 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Apr 88 pp 1, 28

[Exclusive dispatch]

[Text] Damascus—Palestinian sources knowledgeable about the intensified important Palestinian dialogue which is being held in Damascus under Yasir 'Arafat have said that initial agreement has been reached among the Palestinian factions participating in the dialogue to hold a unified, comprehensive 19th PNC session, provided this PNC session is held in Damascus before the end of this year. The sources said this session will be a completion of the 18th PNC session held in Algiers in April last year.

The same sources told AL-RA'Y that separate meetings of the PLO Executive Committee and the PLO Central Council will be respectively held soon to issue instructions and practical and procedural decisions to implement the agreement.

Yasir 'Arafat has stressed to all factions that their positions are still maintained in Palestinian institutions and executive and legislative institutions and that differences, dissentions, and the PNSF's boycott of the Amman and Algiers sessions do not cancel these factions' right to representation in accordance with the basic statutes and the resolutions of the successive PNC session.

The Palestinian institution and the PLO are for all the Palestinians and their national factions and forces, as Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] put it.

Regarding the Fatah Uprising Movement led by Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] and Abu Khalid al-'Amlah, both Fatah dissidents, it has the choice of either returning to Fatah ranks in accordance with the Libyan mediation and Abu 'Ammar's agreement with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi or awaiting a PNC decision after changing the name of their organization, as Yasir 'Arafat said during the dialogue sessions. This is the only group which is not represented in the Palestinian institutions and not recognized by the PNC.

It should be noted that legally the 19th PNC can now be held 1 year after the previous session. It is also certain that the membership of the present PNC members will be reconsidered after its term has expired, especially since the basic statue stipulates that the PNC should be reformed after each three successive sessions.

Qaddumi, Hawatimah Comment on Peace Talks

PM280815 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Apr 88 p 1,2

[Mahir 'Uthman report: "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Interviews Qaddumi in Damascus"]

[Excerpts] Damascus, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Arab observers in Damascus consider the Syrian-Palestinian summit held last Monday evening between President Hafiz al-Asad and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat a good start toward establishing Syrian-Palestinian relations on a foundation of staunch alliance that would make a radical change on the political map of the Middle East at this stage, which is witnessing an escalating and continuing popular uprising in the occupied Palestinian territories as well as U.S. moves aimed at aborting the uprising and rescuing Israel from the dilemma into which the uprising has driven it. [passage omitted]

In an exclusive interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi clarified some of the general aspects dealt with in the Syrian-Palestinian talks.

He said: "We passed through a difficult experience which had to be overcome with awareness, taking into account the points over which we differ. That is why a dialogue with the Syrian leaders was a must and it must now continue."

He added: "We reviewed past experience in the region, especially regarding U.S. policy and its devious behavior beginning with Nixon and then Carter, Kissinger, Habib, Murphy, and ending with Shultz. All signs indicate that the essence of U.S. policy cannot change even if different phrases and meanings are used; even to the point of breaking promises, since it will soon return to backing Israel and its aggressive and expansionist policy."

Qaddumi went on to say: "Israel still rejects the convening of an international peace conference enjoying full powers; it also rejects complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and refuses to recognize the rights of the Palestinian people. It wants to continue to control the important strategic areas in the West Bank and retain Jerusalem as its capital."

He added: "Shultz' tours have shown clearly he is not as interested in the cause of peace as he is in extinguishing the fire of the uprising. The present U.S. Administration,

which is about to leave office, cannot do anything. The ideas contained in its plan cannot be implemented in reality nor can they be accepted by the Arabs."

Qaddumi pointed out that the next stage in Syrian-Palestinian relations will be to draw up the details for an alliance between the two sides and revive the activities of PLO offices in Syria which, he hopes, will result in the release of Palestinian leaders detained for political reasons.

He said: "We must look at each other now with true love and alliance."

On the efforts to achieve understanding between Fatah and the other Palestinian factions, including Fatah's dissidents, Qaddumi said: "The PLO is the mother, which gives both compassion and love. But the new principles of upbringing urge firmness. This mother, with both mind and love, must be decisive. So those who make a mistake must be informed of their mistake so it can be corrected. As for those who rebelled and split away, let the earth swallow them up, since it was they who chose for themselves such a destiny away from their mother."

When Qaddumi was asked whether there was any intention to bring in Palestinian fighters from Yemen, Algeria, Tunisia, and Damascus, he replied: "Why should they return to Damascus? This is a strategic distribution which we wish to maintain. Actually we have no military forces in Tunisia."

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT asked Qaddumi about Syria's and Jordan's position on the Shultz plan and how the PLO analyzes both positions. He said: "The important thing is for Shultz to return emptyhanded and we do not need any analyses. I said previously: Let Shultz go to hell, since this is the best solution."

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT met with Nayif Hawatimah, DFLP secretary general, and asked him the same question.

He replied:

"Jordan announced its willingness to participate in talks within the framework of an international conference on the basis of UN Resolution 242. But the PLO does not believe this resolution constitutes the only political and legal basis because it ignores the Palestinian problem and only concerns border problems between the Zionist enemy and the Arab states; it does not make any reference to our people's right to self-determination as well as their right to return to their country and establish an independent state and their right to independent representation via the PLO. As for Syria, it clearly announced that a solution cannot be confined to Resolution 242. It called for the convening of an international conference enjoying full powers, the right to self-determination, as well as the Palestinian people's right to establish an independent state and their right to return. It also called for considering the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It declared that it is in favor of a unified Arab delegation with independent classification."

Habash Denies Damascus Offices To Reopen Soon

NC271831 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] PFLP Secretary General George Habash has declared that among the points of disagreement between Damascus and the PLO are the PLO's relationships with Egypt and some Jewish figures, as well as some Palestinian tactics with regard to the conflict with the enemy.

He added that the issue pertaining to the membership of some Palestinian factions in the PLO is another point of contention.

At a news conference he held today, Habash denied that the PLO offices in Syria will be reopened soon.

Attempts To 'Scuttle' Reconciliation Expected

NC271818 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] PFLP leader George Habash expects Jordan and Egypt to attempt to scuttle the Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation efforts. He asserted that these two countries' welcome is neither serious nor reflects their true stand.

Habash, who took part in the reconciliation efforts, maintained that certain reactionary Arab states will try to disrupt the convening of the upcoming Arab summit conference, slated for Algiers at the end of May, by demanding Egypt's participation and by preventing the adoption of crucial resolutions against the United States and its hostile anti-Arab policy.

The Palestinian official affirmed that the reconciliation has paved the way for an effective Arab solidarity, particularly among the PLO, Syria, Algeria, Libya, and the PDRY.

It should be recalled that these parties were among the founding members of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation, which was formed in the wake of Egypt's signing of the Camp David accords.

Al-Quds Radio on 26 Apr Clash With Israelis

JN271829 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] The Zionist enemy admitted that an officer with the rank of lieutenant colonel and another soldier whose rank was not mentioned were killed and two others were wounded, one seriously, during a confrontation between a group of Palestinian fedayeen and another group of enemy soldiers near the Dan settlement in the northern Galilee region yesterday.

The enemy radio described the clash as a direct collision and said the terrorist Zionist General Yosi Peled, the so-called commander of the northern command, supervised the clashes in an area the enemy army considers strategic.

The clashes resulted in the martyrdom of three Palestinian fedayeen. They are: First Lieutenant 'Imran Kilani Maqdimi, 1st Lt Muhammad Hamad Dawud Jawdah, and Warrant Officer Nidal Abu Khamis.

The fedayeen carried a statement addressed to the Zionist enemy and another statement addressed to our Arab people in Palestine. The statement addressed to the enemy reads:

You must realize you will be under an illusion if you think it is possible to maintain your occupation forever. We demand our rights as recognized by the whole world: our right to return, to self-determination, and to the establishment of our independent state.

The statement that was addressed to our Arab people in Palestine says: We are proceeding to our beloved Palestine to carry out our task in the struggle to support our people's brave uprising.

In a message to his family and son, the leader of the group 'Imran Kilani says: I take after my father and brothers who loved the land and made sacrifices. I am sure my name will be mentioned by you with honor and pride.

The staff of Al-Quds radio, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating the land and man, pays homage to the three martyrs and announces that the blood of the martyrs will not go in vain and will be the beacon which will light the path for the strugglers until the liberation of Palestine—land and man.

OPEC Affairs

Non-OPEC Producers Offer To Cut Exports

LD271820 Vienna OPECNA in English 1609 GMT 27 Apr 88

["Text of OPEC/non-OPEC Joint Communique"—OPECNA headline]

[Text] Vienna, 27 Apr. 88 (OPECNA)—At the end of the meeting here today between OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers, the following communique was issued:

On the 26th and the 27th of April 1988, upon invitation by OPEC, seven independent oil producing countries met in Vienna with a committee of six OPEC member countries chaired by HE Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman, president of the OPEC conference.

The independent oil producing countries present were: Angola, China, Colombia, Egypt, Malaysia, Mexico and Oman. The OPEC member countries present were: Algeria, Indonesia, Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

All the countries present agreed on the importance of such a meeting between OPEC and independent producers. They noted that it constitutes the beginning of a new stage of cooperation between a large number of oil producing countries and they hoped that others would join in the effort.

In that respect the non-OPEC countries undertook to continue their efforts to secure the participation of other countries. The underlying assumption shared by all is that a stable oil market is the responsibility of all and consequently the burden should be shared.

The independent producers and the OPEC members stated that their concern was for a stable market which was beneficial to producers, consumers and the world economy at large. They hoped in particular that consuming countries would recognize the mutual benefits of such a policy.

The countries present thoroughly reviewed the market situation and found much common ground in their analysis. Everyone agreed that the market was in a delicate balance and would have to be watched continuously over the next months.

Based on such an analysis of the situation, the independent producers presented individually proposals that would contribute to bring prices back to a range around OPEC's objective of 18 US dollars per barrel.

To achieve this target, it was clear to them that production restraint would be necessary, together with the avoidance of destructive commercial practices like netbacks and other discounting mechanisms.

Angola, China, Egypt, Malaysia, Mexico and Oman proposed to cut back their respective export volumes by 5 percent during the crucial remainder of the second quarter, i.e. May and June.

The basis for such a cut would be the average exports of the past six months. Implementation of such measures would be contingent upon a similar proportional response by OPEC.

The independent producers understood that the OPEC committee they met with will have to report this proposal to the consultative meeting to be held tomorrow, before a response could be given.

They asked the committee to also convey to their other colleagues the constructive and positive spirit of their proposal.

The independent producers thanked OPEC for its invitation and expressed gratitude for the warm welcome they received. They also recognized OPEC's continued efforts to bring about a stable oil market and they asked President Lukman to convey this message to the conference on their behalf.

The countries present also agreed that this initial step should be followed by continuous contacts at whichever level is deemed necessary. The purpose of such contacts would be to review the agreements that are arrived at and to plan future avenues of cooperation.

All present thought that the common concern at this stage must therefore be to establish the long-term nature of the effort, to guarantee its credibility and to widen the participation by new countries.

Iranian Oil Official Comments on Saudi Rift

Effect on Oil Price Weighed

AU271430 Paris AFP in English 1343 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Vienna, April 27 (AFP)— A senior Iranian official said Wednesday that Saudi Arabia's decision to sever diplomatic ties with Iran might be intended to undermine efforts by oil-producing countries to shore up sagging world oil prices.

Saudi Arabia announced its decision to break off relations with Iran on Tuesday as the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) began talks with non-OPEC producers on joint action to bolster oil prices.

Iranian Deputy Oil Minister Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili, who reiterated Teheran's claim that the United States had pressured Saudi Arabia into breaking with Iran, said the decision "might have been intended to have a negative impact on oil prices."

Oil prices have firmed in the past six weeks amid intense diplomatic efforts that brought OPEC and non-OPEC producers to the negotiating table here.

Oil analysts said close cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Iran in the past had paved the way for some of the most significant OPEC compromises on oil prices and production levels.

But OPEC insiders said the two countries have not been on speaking terms since last year's bloody clashes between Saudi police and Iranians on the annual pilgrimage to Mecca and other Muslim holy places in Saudi Arabia, which left several hundred people dead.

Mr Kazempur said Iran favoured "full cooperation" between OPEC and non-OPEC countries.

But he stressed that they should work on a "longer term strategy based on scientific facts", rather than on a short term basis, to restore an average price of 18 dollars a barrel and pave the way for higher prices.

He said Iran was issuing "an urgent call" to non-OPEC countries outside the group represented here, to give "not only moral support, but to take concrete measures such as quantified reductions" of their output. He specifically cited Norway, the Soviet Union and Brunei.

A senior Norwegian official attending the talks here as an observer has held bilateral talks with most delegations, but is not taking part in the multilateral talks between OPEC and non-OPEC producers.

Further on Iranian Position

LD271535 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Vienna, April 27, IRNA—Iran's deputy oil minister warmly welcomed efforts here by the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and seven non-OPEC member countries to stabilize the oil price.

Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili also said the Islamic Republic has always called for bringing oil price back to its actual level. Iran, he added, urges for return of the oil price to dlrs. 18 per barrel before OPEC'S next session to be held in June.

In a talk to IRNA, Ardabili expressed hope that other oil producing countries, namely the Soviet Union and Norway, would also take part in future talks and cooperate with the OPEC.

The talks now in progress in Vienna can be a strong foundation for determining strategy of long-term cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC members, he expressed hope.

On Mexico's suggestion for slashing non-OPEC oil export by 5 percent, Ardabili said it is natural that OPEC will answer positively for reduction for oil exports. "Iran welcomes the idea," he noted.

He expressed hope that real, precise and confirmed production figures would be a basis for talks on reducing oil exports.

The Iranian oil official said all petroleum producing countries are responsible for stabilising the oil cartel.

Chad

Central African Chambers of Commerce Meet

AB2704220088 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Deliberations of the seventh ordinary General Assembly of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of Central Africa have begun at the conference hall of the Foreign Ministry in Ndjamena.

Three speeches were made at the official opening session, which was attended by all delegations of member countries of the federation, representatives of African institutions for economic integration, as well as members of the diplomatic corps.

In his welcoming address, the president of the Chad businessmen's association noted that the General Assembly of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of Central Africa was taking place in Ndjamena soon after meetings of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa, the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, and the Lake Chad Basin Development Commission, which were also held in Ndjamena.

In choosing to hold this General Assembly in the Chadian capital, the members of the federation have once again demonstrated their solidarity with, and support for, the Chadian Government at a time when the expansionist and barbarous Tripoli regime is waging war against the country. [passage omitted]

The president of the businessmen's association then spoke about the serious financial crisis facing the federation which puts the very existence of the regional institution in jeopardy.

The Ndjamena meeting therefore offers a good opportunity for finding an immediate solution to this crisis. [passage omitted]

Egypt

PLO Reassures Government on Syria Contacts

JN271331 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1214 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Huda Tawfiq dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat has affirmed to President Husni Mubarak that relations between the PLO and Egypt will not be harmed as a result of restoring dialogue with Damascus.

'Arafat explained to Egyptian leaders that President al-Asad understands this position. PNC member Sa'id Kamal made this statement to our radio and conveyed 'Arafat's message to Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid immediately after receiving a telephone call from 'Arafat in Baghdad.

Sa'id Kamal said the Palestinian leader asked him to brief Egyptian leaders on what happened in Damascus. He said the question of freezing, serving, or undermining relations with Egypt was never raised during the recent Syrian-Palestinian dialogue.

He said the PLO is enthusiastic about its relations with Egypt and that this is in its interest. He said this was explained by Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and confirmed by the head of the Political Department, Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi].

He noted that this is because there is no room for any talk about severing relations between the PLO and Egypt, the largest fraternal country. He said that the PLO's relations with it must have priority.

Cairo's official stand on the resumption of dialogue between the PLO and Syria welcomes agreement and reconciliation among all Arab parties in the service of the supreme Arab interest, provided it is not at the expense of Egypt.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said: We trust the concern of the brothers about maintaining the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking. The newspaper AL-AHRAM said on its front page today that the reports received by Cairo on the meeting between 'Arafat and Al-Asad are contradictory in terms of what they announce in Damascus and what Syria wants despite all the dangers surrounding the Arab nation in every direction.

Reportage on Visit by CSSR Foreign Minister

Meets With Mubarak

NC271431 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received CSSR Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis today. The meeting was also attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Czechoslovak ambassador in Cairo.

Following the meeting, the CSSR foreign minister disclosed that he had delivered a message to President Mubarak from Milos Jakes, general secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, in which he expressed his satisfaction with the current state of bilateral relations, as well as his belief that they must be further promoted in the near future.

The Czechoslovak foreign minister described the meeting as frank, and revealed that President Mubarak had expressed views identical to those of the CSSR. He also noted that his excellency the president expressed a desire for increased cooperation in all spheres.

The Czechoslovak foreign minister noted his satisfaction with President Mubarak's invitation to the general secretary to visit Egypt. A similar invitation had also been extended to the Czechoslovak president.

He added: During the talks, we stressed the need for the CSSR prime minister to visit Egypt at the earliest possible date.

The Czechoslovak foreign minister emphasized his appreciation for Egypt's international policy, which seeks to attain peace and lessen international tension. He revealed that with regard to these issues, the views of both sides were almost identical.

He expressed satisfaction with the fact that Egypt and the CSSR agree on the concept of convening an international conference to resolve current Middle East problems.

The Czechoslovak foreign minister said that this support is based on the conviction that the participation of all parties concerned, including the U.N. Security Council permanent members, the PLO, and Israel, at a roundtable is the most practical method of reaching a settlement because it is the way by which a comprehensive and practical solution can be reached with regard to this chronic crisis.

On bilateral cooperation, the CSSR foreign minister said: We have signed a very good joint communique. We have also begun preparations for the signing of an agreement that would avoid double taxation.

He pointed out that economists in both countries are taking a number of measures to enhance economic and trade cooperation and said, in this connection: We have expressed a desire to expand economic cooperation through the establishment of joint projects.

Meets With Prime Minister

NC271459 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi received CSSR Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek in his office this afternoon. The CSSR foreign minister, and an accompanying delegation, is currently visiting Cairo.

During the meeting, which was also attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the officials discussed ways of promoting bilateral cooperation, particularly regarding trade and the economy.

They agreed to convene a meeting of the Egyptian-Czechoslovak Economic Committee in the near future under the chairmanship of the economic ministers of both countries. Discussion at the committee's sessions would focus on increasing trade and implementing a number of joint production projects.

The conferees also reviewed Middle East developments and other international issues of concern to both countries. During the meeting, Dr 'Atif Sidqi extended an invitation to the CSSR prime minister to visit Egypt.

The CSSR foreign minister will visit Alexandria tomorrow, where he will tour that city's tourist and historical sites, and from where he is expected to later depart for his country.

Concludes Official Visit

NC2804085488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—CSSR Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek, and accompanying delegation, left Cairo for Alexandria this morning on a sight-seeing tour of the city. He is scheduled to leave Alexandria later today for home, at the end of his 4-day visit to Egypt.

He was seen off at the airport by Isma'il Mubarak, head of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the CSSR ambassador in Cairo.

'Abd al-Majid Stresses Sovereignty Over Tabah

NC271335 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has reaffirmed that Egypt's stand on the Tabah issue is well-known and specific. He said: We will adhere to the right of Egyptian sovereignty over Tabah. We have no contender on this spent issue.

'Abd al-Majid pointed out that his meeting with [Abraham] Sofaer, the U.S. State Department legal adviser who is authorized by the U.S. Government to follow up the Tabah issue, is an attempt to settle the issue outside arbitration.

In a statement to reporters, he noted that the arbitral compromise permits a settlement outside the arbitration tribunal. He added that any solution that is not in keeping with Egyptian sovereignty is totally rejected.

Lawyer Calls for End to Relations With Israel

PM271213 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic
25 Apr 88 p 4

[Open letter to President Mubarak by Lawyers Union Secretary 'Ismat al-Hawwari: "Bloody Peace With Israel"]

[Excerpts] Allow me to say that the subject of my third letter will be the criminal event, whose victim was the heroic Palestinian leader Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], which took place on Arab Tunisian territory.

Actually, I write this letter to you while the heart of every Arab is full of grief and confusion dominates the pure land of the Arabs; nerves are no longer under control.

The 20th century pirates are imposing the law of the jungle on the Arab nation. They storm every holy place with their filth, violating the teachings of heaven and killing the innocent, just as they killed the prophets in the past. They reject whatever we believe in and ridicule whatever we profess.

You can see that events constantly continue, leaving their implications behind. The new Nazis have assassinated a symbol and a lion of the Palestinian revolution. You probably heard of the Israeli gang's admission that it was its government which issued the orders to assassinate the hero, and that the criminal Shamir sent a cable to the murderers congratulating them on the crime they had committed and expressing his joy at the success of the operation, in which the Israeli Mosad and an Israeli Navy unit had participated!

You probably share my opinion that the crime committed by the enemy is a vile and low crime and that the Arab nation must not keep quiet about it or ignore it. [passage omitted]

The entire Arab world is looking to Egypt to lead the Arabs with a lofty attitude and a profound decision in the face of Israeli criminal violations. Words of condolence and regret or strong phrases condemning and denouncing the crime are not enough in reply to the killing of the heroic martyr.

The reply must be in extreme anger, represented by a decision that restores the nation's dignity so that those doing mischief on earth will know what vicissitudes they will suffer. I call on you and on every particle of patriotism and arabism in you to hasten and decide on the following:

1. To abrogate the Al-Sadat-Israel agreement now that Israel has revealed its criminal intentions and the agreement has become an agreement of bloody peace.

2. To sever the fragile diplomatic relations with the Israeli enemy, which are evil fruit produced by the Al-Sadat-Israel agreement.

3. To turn to the Security Council and the United Nations in order to condemn Israel and its violation of Arab Tunisian territory, as well as its repressive measures and spilling of Arab blood in the occupied territories.

4. To mobilize world public opinion with a view to expelling Israel from the United Nations since the role of the Israeli gang in imposing international terrorism has been exposed.

5. To call on the Arab states to take up firm and serious stands against Israel and the United States, which blesses Israeli crimes, and to hasten the withdrawal of their funds from U.S. banks.

6. To back the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories with every possible means of material and moral support.

7. To suspend indefinitely the case against "Egypt's Revolution" by the public prosecution service, since it is shameful for Egypt to continue looking into this case while Israel continues to treat the lives of our sons with disdain, and after it has been proven that the Israeli Government itself is the actual perpetrator of every murder committed against the Arabs.

8. To release the defendants accused of assassinating the Israelis Israel sent to spy and sabotage.

9. To name a major square or street in every Arab capital after the heroic martyr Abu Jihad, so as to preserve the memory of his heroism. [passage omitted]

Columnist on U.S. 'Ugly Face' in Arab World

JN271732 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
26 Apr 88 p 5

["Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[Text] Undoubtedly, the United States is responsible for its ugly face and bad reputation with the Arabs. It is accused of total bias toward Israel; it always behaves as if Israel is the only U.S. ally in the region.

It believes the Arabs will never become communists because the Arabs are Muslims and Islam is opposed to communism. The United States does not rest, however, because the Arabs are without U.S. support and they are searching for it in the USSR.

When Congress refuses to approve arms deals with the Arabs to defend themselves, the Arabs move toward the Soviets. Consequently, in every deal the Arabs and the United States lose, while Israel and the communist bloc always win.

The United States, for example, always protects Israel with the veto. The United States might have its own reasons. An American adviser at the United Nations told me:

What will the Arabs gain from a UN or Security Council resolution condemning Israel? All these resolutions are merely ink on paper. Since Israel was established thousands of such resolutions have been issued. These resolutions do nothing for the Arab cause. If the Arabs like condemnation resolutions, the United States prefers to reach practical solutions to the Middle East crisis.

The American adviser said: The U.S. veto is not important; what is important is the U.S. position. The United States still does not recognize the annexation of Jerusalem or consider it Israel's capital. The United States also rejects any change in the status of the occupied territory, the adviser said.

Some Arab foreign ministers, that is, at the highest diplomatic level, might understand this American position. However, the United States loses a lot at the Arab street level.

Much of its reputation among the Arabs is lessened for its stands vis-a-vis Israel. The United States did the impossible for the sake of the Afghan people. It supplied them with arms and helped them reject the Soviet occupation.

But the United States has not helped the Arabs in the occupied territory to reject the Israeli occupation. The United States, for example, is concerned about the freedom of worship in the USSR.

It only cares about the Jews. It does not talk about the seizure by the communist regime of the rights of the Muslims and Christians to worship and exercise religious rights. The United States, as we all know, knows that communist regimes are against all religions.

The United States should defend human rights, considering that all people are equal, as we hear it, in its view. It should not differentiate between people in Afghanistan, Nicaragua, and Palestine.

As we also see it, the United States should be against terrorism, provided it does not differentiate between Israeli and Palestinian terrorism. The U.S. reputation relies, to a large extent, on U.S. justice. If it deals fairly its reputation will improve. The opposite is true as well.

Dailies on Israeli 'Arrogance', U.S. Support
NC270959 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—In their commentaries today, Egyptian newspapers examine the phenomenon of Israeli arrogance toward the people of the occupied Arab land and U.S. support for Israel at the United Nations.

AL-AHRAM states that Israel, which celebrated its 40th anniversary this month, indeed celebrates the longest massacre of its history while insolently desiring that the world share in this celebration.

Israel, which daily sheds Palestinian blood in the occupied land to counter demonstrations and stone-throwings that occur in expression of Palestinian emotions, reminds us of previous massacres in its history committed without justification.

In fact, these massacres were carried out in a blatantly provocative way, primarily intended to horrify the people and force them to leave their homes so that settlers could replace them.

In such a way, they could enlarge their territory, increase the number of their settlers, and wait for a time to launch further campaigns and wars.

AL-AHRAM goes on to say that what has been happening in the West Bank and Gaza for the past 5 months is almost an exact replication of previous Israeli actions, which are still ingrained in the minds of living generations.

Indeed, it is a magnified picture showing more clearly the features that were previously vague or unknown. The paper notes that the West Bank and Gaza have been transformed into two big camps by the Israeli forces.

The Israeli forces have blockaded and isolated them from the world, cut communications with them, imposed curfews, banned food supplies, and cut off water and electricity.

In addition, they have launched fearful campaigns against the people, taking them out of their homes in random fashion and transporting them to centers for torture or collective punishment.

They have also blown up their homes and stormed hospitals and (?schools). Not content with this, the Israeli authorities continue their deportations and bombings. They confront any Palestinian gathering with weapons—firing at anyone carrying anything—and attack peaceful protest demonstrations with so-called rubber bullets.

This is a misnomer because these bullets have steel beneath the rubber, and hit and kill. They also use so-called tear gas, which in fact is laced with a chemical substance that may kill by asphyxiation or cause chest and stomach diseases.

While this goes on, the paper adds, deportations and displacement by force are continuing, and the settlers, their appetites whetted by the smell of the blood shed by their authorities in brutal operations against the people of peaceful villages, are becoming more active.

AL-AKHBAR criticizes the U.S. stand on the Security Council resolutions condemning Israel and expressing the international community's denunciation of its incessant crimes and violations of all international laws, principles, and norms.

The newspaper says that the American position deserves deep and comprehensive study by Arab research centers to uncover the reasons and goals behind it.

The U.S. attitude, the paper says, is predictable. The U.S. delegation will not permit any harsh or strong clauses against Israel, no matter how ugly the crime it commits or the extent of the wrath and indignation provoked by Israeli actions.

Various delegations at the Security Council take the expected reaction of the U.S. envoy into account when they formulate any resolution against Israel. They try to delete any words that Washington believes may hurt Israel's feelings.

Despite this, as soon as the U.S. delegation sees other Security Council delegations enthusiastically approve a draft resolution, it gives the well-known shout: veto.

AL-AKHBAR goes on to say that the United States is content every now and then to abstain on an unanimously passed anti-Israel Security Council resolution. It does this to satisfy the Arabs it claims as friends.

However, this move by Washington provokes the anger of the Tel Aviv leaders, who consider it a betrayal of the protege state reared in the lap of U.S. luxury. The Arabs, however, hail this move and consider it a big victory.

Concluding its comment, AL-AKHBAR says: "We know, and the United States also knows, that it does not matter how strong a resolution is or how harsh its condemnation of Israel; it is no more than a piece of paper, to be added to hundreds of previous pieces of paper that condemn Israel in the most violent terms and eventually end up on a neglected shelf on one of the walls of the Israeli Foreign Ministry."

Israeli Leaders Urged To Pursue Peace, Not Votes

NC271921 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1240 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "Peace and Security Requirements Are Much More Valuable Than Israeli Votes]

[Text] Once again, events are proving beyond any doubt that there is an underlying belief common to all Israeli leaders, a belief with which they will never part, under any circumstances.

While various actors play different roles in the Israeli script, their aim is always the same: to win time, to take the urgency out of the peace issue, to block chances for peace, to dishearten the Arabs and Palestinians, and to neutralize the continued international denunciation of Israel's terrorization of Palestinians inside and outside the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It is not a matter of who rules Israel. It makes no difference whether the Likud or the Labor Party, the hawks or the doves—as the Western media likes to describe them—are in power.

What matters is the commitment to principles, agreements, and the ability to understand the present times, which differs greatly from those in which Israel was founded.

The world and the region are no longer the same. Yet, ever faithful to its long-standing practices, Israel still trys to cultivate divisions among the Arabs, terrorize them, and distract them with minor issues it creates or helps foment.

This rather prolonged introduction was necessary before tackling the questions which many observers have been asking: Why did Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres make such a turnabout?

And, how is it that his remarks are becoming as hardline and uncompromising as those of Yitzhaq Shamir, whose nay's have become boring even to himself and his audience worldwide?

Some may attribute the turnabout to the pre-election scrambling for votes, saying that the end justifies the means, particularly in view of the fact that Shamir's hardline supporters have become particularly vocal in their rejection of any just peace proposal. If Peres does not take such stands, the argument goes, Likud will win the elections and Labor will lose.

However, this argument is unacceptable because despite being part of the ruling coalition in Israel, what has Peres accomplished so far? Peres once agreed in Alexandria to endorse the idea of an international peace conference, but could not press hard for its convocation.

Even as prime minister of Israel, Peres could not be decisive on the issue that Israel dreads most; namely, the issue of peace, of returning the land to its rightful owners, of renouncing revolution [as heard], and of recognizing Palestinian rights.

What makes this argument so blatantly untenable is that Shim'on Peres does not lack the means to match the election campaign of Yitzhaq Shamir, his rival who has offhandedly rejected all peace proposals.

It is enough for Peres to boast of the brilliant military successes of his deputy, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in his desperate bid to clamp down on Palestinian children, women, and old people.

Rabin's efforts to conquer stone-throwers include the latest weapons, poison gas, and methods that range from shooting the innocent to burying people alive, not to mention breaking bones, demolishing houses, deporting Palestinians, sealing off the West Bank and Gaza from the world, and waging the worst terrorist campaign in history against the inhabitants of an occupied homeland.

All these measures are part of a desperate attempt to crack down on the Palestinian uprising against the continued Israeli occupation.

The heroism of Israel's Labor Party, as embodied in Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, does not end there. Rabin has made threats to Arab countries, helped Iran against Iraq, and recently launched an attack inside Tunisia—a sovereign and independent Arab country—to assassinate Palestinian Leader Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] to intimidate Palestinians living within the occupied territories. Is this record not satisfactory enough for the Israeli Labor Party?

Still, Peres cannot back down from basic principles and official agreements without losing his credibility in any future talks. What we want Peres and Shamir to understand is that peace and security for the Israeli people are much more valuable objectives than the search for votes.

Such election tactics will not dissuade the Arabs from pressing for peace and for an international conference. Instead, the Arab position will gain in strength and the Palestinian uprising will continue.

This will take place if, as President Husni Mubarak said yesterday, the Palestinians succeed in unifying their position. Otherwise, there will be no need to pursue the peace efforts.

Libya

'Arafat Interviewed; Praises Al-Qadhdhafi

LD271317 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 27 Apr (JANA)—Brother Yasir 'Arafat has praised the great and significant efforts made by the brother revolutionary leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution, to unite factions of the Palestinian revolution and clear the air between the PLO and Syria.

In a radio interview with the Voice of Greater Arab Homeland, voice of the revolutionary committees of the Great Jamahiriyah, Brother Yasir 'Arafat said that during the next few days the blessed effort made by the brother leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, to rectify Palestinian-Syrian positions will have beneficial results for the Arab nation's objectives, aspirations, and ambitions.

Brother Yasir 'Arafat said: I would like to thank my brother, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, for the distinguished stand he has taken with the Arab people in occupied Palestine and for his encouragement, support, and incitement to step up the popular revolution, so it will extend to all the towns and villages of occupied Palestine.

He said: I would like to tell my brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to rest assured that his brothers and beloved ones in occupied Palestine will live up to his expectations and together we shall, God willing, pray in the first of the two Qiblahs and in the third holiest place [Jerusalem]. [passage omitted]

'Arafat stressed that the so-called international peace conference is another Camp David; a grave for what remains of the Arab cause and a great plot against the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

At the end of the radio interview, he urged the masses of the popular uprising in occupied Palestine to extend the scope of the popular demonstrations, general strike, and civil disobedience against the Zionist occupiers.

Sudan

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi Reelected Prime Minister

JN281057 Khartoum SUNA in English 1012 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum April 289 (SUNA)—The Constituent Assembly Wednesday reelected leader of the Al-Ummah Party Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi as prime minister defeating the candidates of the African parties and Democratic Opposition Eliaba James Surur and 'Izz al-Din 'Ali 'Amir respectively.

Al-Mahdi scored 196 votes out of 222 ones which his rivals scored 21 and 4 respectively with one member abstaining.

Following his re-eelection as premier, Al-Mahdi said the cooperation realized by all parties was the genuine outlet for the convocation of the proposed national constitutional conference.

He said all political parties should cooperate with each other so as to realize the main goals.

Al-Mahdi noted that the remaining two years period of the Constituent Assembly would witness rule on the basis of the Islamic shari'a.

Surur, of his part, stressed the commitment of the Sudanese people to democracy saying that the African parties group would stand at the opposition in order to protecting democracy and safeguarding the national unity.

'Amir who adressed the session called for dissolving the assembly and conducting new general elections.

He reiterated the democratic opposition's firm demands for cancelling of September laws, reconsidering of agreements signed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and adopting practical steps towards the convocation of the constitutional conference.

Communists Criticize Inclusion of Islamic Front
JN262057 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1713 GMT 26 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Apr (SUNA)—The democratic opposition, "the Sudanese Communist Party," has said the participation of the Islamic National Front [NIF] in the government constitutes a turn to the right and a clear denial of the various charters of the uprising.

It referred to the April 1985 uprising charter, the charter of defense of democracy, and other charters that the NIF did not sign. The democratic opposition said that the participation of the NIF in the government opens the door wide for the May elements, laws, and practices to regain their positions. This, the opposition said, will seriously undermine the objectives of the Sudanese people's April uprising.

The democratic opposition said in a statement issued yesterday that it was not invited to take part in the consultations of the five-party committee on national reconciliation.

The statement said that the democratic opposition did not ask to participate and does not consider itself a party to this project, as it did not sign it.

The statement said that various meetings were held later, and that one-sided, two-sided, three-sided, and five-sided charters were dawn. The talks ended with the NIF signing a charter Saturday night.

The statement added that the democratic opposition, therefore, believes that what happened seriously affects the issues of war, peace, national unity, and the economic salvation program.

The statement said that the democratic opposition will continue in opposition so as to defend the uprising, its slogans, and its aims.

The statement reviewed the position of the democratic opposition on national reconciliation and the proposals it has made from the time of the prime minister's speech on 15 March up until yesterday.

Radio SPLA Accuses Al-Mahdi of Bribery
EA280354 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Comrades in struggle, the sectarian regime in Khartoum, now facing a series of defeats all along the line as well as the certainty that this revolution will continue its forward march, has been forced to adopt a program of crisis management which has brought to the surface the defense of the sectarian Islamic shari'a system as the principle of the state power.

As it was to be expected, the prime minister of Khartoum, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, has succeeded to woo all members of the Assembly into supporting his program of rule except for three who voted against. [passage omitted]

Now with this arrogant attitude of the prime minister, what type of group of people is he going to trust to work with to bring peace to the country?

The question of the worsening economic crisis, how will the members of parliament adopt policies to resuscitate it, when Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi himself is misusing the funds for purchasing luxurious cars to the individual members of parliament for winning them to his side.

Worse still, the present war is costing Khartoum nearly $4 million a day. To give some evidence of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's misuse of public funds, last year, following the collapse of his coalition government in August and knowing very well that without bringing the members of the parliament, he was going to lose, Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi purchased 95 cars—land cruisers, station wagons, pick-ups, Cressidas, and Toyota Hilux in November, all brand new and gave them to some MP's.

These cars were distributed at the compound of the parliamentary building with the recipient MP's queuing up dramatically to receive their brand new cars.

To ensure that the matter should not reach the ears of the suffering masses, the representatives of the Ministry of Commerce, Cooperation and Supply, the Mechanical Transport Department, MTD, and the city traffic was quickly order by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to report to the Constituent Assembly to ease the registration process.

The number plates were quickly fixed and all other necessary documents were issued with no delay. In the same hall, agents of the various insurance companies were in attendanace to see that the cars had their insurance covered.

This is how Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi bought his support from the members of the Assembly. [passage omitted] According to reliable sources in the Assembly, payment of these cars is supposed to be done in 5 years and yet the remaining lifetime of Sadiq's Assembly is about 2 years.

If democracy is to be observed and the people go for elections after the expiration of the mandate of the present Assembly and those MP's who the prime minister, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, bribed with the cars, lost, including Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi himself, who will refund that huge sum of money?

Or is Sadiq planning to extend the duration of the Assembly? The answer to these questions is in the affirmative, because Sadiq has ruled the country for almost 1 year without a proper cabinet and he is going to continue doing so.

Besides giving free cars to members of the Assembly, Sadiq's administration has inflated the salaries of the MP's to more than 2,500 Sudanese pounds per month.

Bribed with such a large sum of money, plus luxurious cars, the MP's of course could not resist the temptation to accept the adoption of the Islamic shari'a laws as the principal system of rule in the country, because some of these MP's did not dream of possessing cars in their lifetime.

Although some MP's are reported to be protesting against the inclusion of the Islamic National Front in the government, they are only shedding crocodile tears. Some of those MP's protesting were sponsored in their campaign by the Islamic National Front.

They were given Muslim names in the pay list of the Islamic National Front. We all know them and they should not blackmail the electorate.

Furthermore, those MP's protesting knew very well that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was campaigning to replace Numayri to become an imam and would want Sudan to be governed by Islamic shari'a laws.

Yet they accepted the bribe and signed the charter. They want to have luxury in slavery. They have sold the aspirations of their electorate for money.

We in the SPLM/SPLA will not trade with our people. We shall never betray them. We will continue to fight for the liberation of the land from all forms of sectarianism.

We are prepared to live in poverty for freedom than to have luxury in slavery. We are not going to give up the liberation struggle. Liberation or death.

Commissioner Denies Falasha Operations

JN262011 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1735 GMT 26 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, 26 apr (SUNA)—Refugees Commissioner Hasan 'Atiyah, has denied recent news reports that transportation operations of Ethiopian Falashas continue to take place under the cover of the refugee resettlement program.

'Atiyyah said that such reports harm the country's reputation and security. He told the newspaper AL-AYYAM that the resettlement program has taken place in accordance with legal procedures through a specialized committee, which is eager to safeguard Sudan's security, reputation, and the rights of the Sudanese citizens.

'Atiyah stated that Sudan encourages the resettlement of refugees as it is closely linked to human rights, particularly the right to move with complete freedom from one place to another. He reiterated Sudan's readiness to offer the necessary facilities to any country that wishes to resettle refugees.

Delegation Leaves for Ethiopia Meetings

JN271531 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Apr (SUNA)—State Council Member Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din left for Ethiopia at 1500 today leading a delegation to attend meetings of the Higher Joint Sudanese-Ethiopian Committee which will begin in Addis Ababa tomorrow. The meetings will continue for 3 days.

Prior to his departure, Dr Taj al-Din issued a statement saying that the committee meetings will address bilateral relations and peace issues in the region, indicating "that this meeting will be the second between the two states following the Djibouti meeting between Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam on 22 March."

During the visit, Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din will be accompanied by Angelo Beda, Political Bureau member of the Southern Sudanese Political Association; Mahdi Ibrahim, chairman of the Foreign Relations Department of the Islamic National Front; Ahmad Sa'd 'Umar, Political Bureau member of the Democratic Unionist Party; and Ambassador Yusuf Mukhtar.

The directors of military intelligence and external security and their aides are also accompanying Dr Taj al-Din.

Tunisia

PLO's 'Arafat Sends Message to President

LD280935 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Apr 88

["Text" of message by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali; date of message not given—read by announcer]

[Text] I have followed, with great pride and respect, the results of your personal efforts and those of your government in upholding the word of truth and defending the cause of justice.

The political stance of fraternal, strong, courageous, and committed Tunisia was embodied in these efforts, which were crowned with the passing of the UN Security Council resolution strongly condemning the Israeli terrorist aggression to which Tunisia was exposed and the assassination of brother, leader, and martyr, Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir].

This resolution represents an international consensus to expose the aggressor, condemn the Zionist aggression, and stand up for the causes of justice, truth, and peace.

I would like to present you with my warmest congratulations for the fraternal and courageous stance, which characterizes Tunisia under your direct guardianship.

I would like to express to you, in the name of the steadfast Palestinian people, our consideration, respect, and utmost gratitude for your great role; for your successful efforts in confronting this act of Zionist aggression and exposing its intrigues and dangerous repercussions; and for all the steps you have taken to deter aggression, defend the march of our revolution, and provide it with every support and assistance.

I wish you good health, happiness, and success for Tunisia, its prosperity, and to the benefit of the causes of our Arab and Islamic nation, the foremost of which is the Palestinian cause. [Words indistinct] with every sentiment of friendliness and regard. Revolution until victory.

Kuwait

Libyan Envoy Delivers Al-Qadhdhafi Message

Received by Amir

LD271916 Kuwait KUNA in English 0957 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 27 (KUNA)—Libyan envoy 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi delivered Wednesday a message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdahfi to the amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

The encounter between Shaykh Jabir and Al-'Ubaydi was attended by Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin.

Meets Foreign Minister

LD271929 Kuwait KUNA in English 1127 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 27 (KUNA)—Libya's delegate at the Arab League, 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi met here Wednesday with Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and discussed the need to strengthen Arab solidarity in the face of foreign challenges.

The Libyan envoy, who flew in here from Saudi Arabia earlier today in the context of an Arab tour, told KUNA after the meeting that he and Shaykh Sabah reviewed bilateral relations and Arab developments.

"We sensed a need for consultation and reviving Arab solidarity against threats besetting the Arab nation on all fronts," the Libyan emissary added.

On the recent Kuwaiti airliner hijack, Al-'Ubaydi recalled that his government had condemned the plane's seizure, noting that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi had expressed, in a telephone contact with h.h. the amir, the Jamahiriyah's readiness to intervene and save the aircraft and passengers. Al-'Ubaydi pointed out that Libyan people join Kuwaitis in rejoicing at the satisfactory end to the crisis.

"We have always affirmed our condemnation of terrorism, and refusal to accept hijacked airplanes," the Libyan official went on.

Replying to a question, the official said Libya would take part in an Algerian-proposed Arab summit, slated for June, to discuss concerted Arab support for the Palestinian popular uprising.

"We would definitely participate particularly as it would discuss the uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied lands, and the Palestinian issue at large," Al-'Ubaydi went on.

Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin and the Libyan charge d'affaires to Kuwait took part in the meeting between Shaykh Sabah and Al-'Ubaydi. The Libyan envoy pointed out that the message which he had conveyed to h.h. the amir in the morning dealt with current Arab developments and bilateral links. He indicated that he felt every understanding from h.h. the amir towards the Al-Qadhdhafi message.

Later, Radio Kuwait reported that Interior Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah received the Libyan envoy at his office Wednesday morning with bilateral relations topping the talks.

Departs 28 Apr

LD280909 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0843 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 28 Apr (KUNA)—The permanent representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to the Arab League, 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, has left the country this afternoon for Abu Dhabi. His visit lasted 26 hours. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Briefs Press on Hijacking

JN271909 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 26 Apr 88 pp 1, 21

[Excerpts] His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, has called on the Arabs to cooperate in fighting terrorists and terrorism wherever they may be.

His highness affirmed that Kuwait has drafted plans to train our youth in fighting terrorism. He warned against the rumors being circulated by the sick-minded, affirming that no deal was concluded to end the crisis of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner "Al-Jabiriyah." The purpose of such rumors, he said, was to split the domestic front.

His highness affirmed that Kuwait's strength lies in the unity of its people and a solid domestic front. He noted that the Kuwaiti people stand in one rank, rejecting submission and blackmail.

He said the government has worked long hours under the guidance of his highness the amir. He affirmed: We are all ready to make every sacrifice for the sake of the dignity and honor of our beloved homeland, Kuwait.

His highness criticised the statement by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Larijani in London in which he announced that Kuwait had rejected an Iranian suggestion to storm the airliner.

His highness affirmed that this was not true. He pointed out that Kuwait had informed Iranian officials when the airliner was at Mashhad that it was up to the Iranian authorities to handle the incident as they wished.

His highness met at the People's Palace yesterday with the proprietor of the newspaper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, KUNA's chairman of the board of directors and the director general, and the chief editors of daily newspapers and weeklies.

The news conference was attended by Shaykh Jabir Mubarak al-Hamad al-Sabah, minister of information; 'Abd al-'Aziz Muhammad Ja'far, under secretary of the Ministry of Information; and Hamad Yusuf al-Rumi, assistant under secretary for publication and censorship affairs. It was also attended by 'Abd al-Latif 'Abd al-Rahman al-Bahr, director general of the prime minister's office.

His highness the heir apparent and prime minister began the news conference with the following statement:

[Passage omitted] Brothers, in my talk to you now on the crisis and the circumstances of the hijacking, I will not go into details, but I will explain certain significant points.

As you all know, the airliner left Bangkok airport on the night of 4 April on its way to Kuwait. We then received information that the airliner had been hijacked and had landed at Mashhad airport.

As soon as we got the news, the brother members of the government and I made a clear decision not to accept any demand by the hijackers, no matter what. We stuck to our decision with full responsibility. When the airliner landed at Mashhad airport, we contacted officials in Tehran and urged them to take immediate action to secure the release of the airliner and the passengers.

We asked the senior officials in the Iranian regime who made statements condemning the hijacking to translate these statements into action. We continued our contacts with the Iranian officials in Tehran and Mashhad.

In the meantime, the Kuwaiti delegation at Mashhad also began to exert efforts. But we were surprised by the Iranian authorties' decision to refuel the airliner and permit it to take off despite our appeals to the officials there not to refuel the airliner and despite our decision to give the Mashhad airport officials the liberty to take all adequate measures to preserve the lives of the passengers and crew.

Last week I was surprised to hear a statement by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Larijani during his meeting with newsmen in Britain. He said they proposed storming the aircraft but that Kuwaiti authorities rejected the Iranian proposal.

That is not correct. It is untrue. We said: The plane is now in an Iranian airport and is under the control of the Iranian authorities. We will not interfere in the affairs of the Iranian authorities. The matter is left to you.

What did happen is that some officials at Mashhad airport pressed the members of the Kuwaiti delegation at the airport to accept all or some of the hijackers' demands but Kuwait categorically rejected those demands.

The Iranians decided to refuel the plane and it then took off from Mashhad airport. We in Kuwait, with our monitoring and surveillance resources, were following the plane's flight until it entered Lebanese airspace.

As you know, the plane's captain was asked to land at Beirut airport, but we understood that the Lebanese authorities blocked all the runways at the airport and thus the plane's captain was compelled to fly to and land at Larnaca airport in Cyprus.

It is a long story and as I said at the beginning I do not want to talk about it in detail, because a great deal of what happened at Larnaca airport became known here and elsewhere.

However, I would like to express my thanks to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat for his constructive cooperation and for his constant contacts with the head of the PLO office in Cyprus asking him to cooperate with officials at Larnaca airport and to seek to bring about the release of all the passengers.

When the plane was at Larnaca airport there were constant contacts between us and the officials at the airport. We urged them to continue the dialogue with us, to exchange views with us, and to continue making efforts that could lead to the release of all passengers. They exerted great efforts in that regard.

However, after passenger 'Abdallah Habbab was killed on Saturday and the second passenger Khalid Ayyub was killed on Monday the Cypriot authorities found that the situation was becoming more complex, and because of special circumstances they concluded they had to meet the hijackers' demand to refuel the plane.

The Cypriot authorities understood directly and officially from the brothers in Algeria that the latter were prepared to receive the plane. That and other matters and reasons may have encouraged Cypriot officials to refuel the plane.

As you know, the plane left Larnaca airport for Algeria. After the plane landed in Algiers we resumed the dialogue with the brothers in Algeria so they would make all the steps and adopt all the measures to bring about the passengers' release.

The negotiators in Algiers were led by the Algerian interior minister. A few hours after the plane landed at Algiers airport we found it necessary to send a delegation led by Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs, and including officials of the Foreign and Interior Ministries.

Brother Sa'ud held continuing and intensive talks with Algerian officials. We explained the clear Kuwaiti stand to the brothers in Algiers. We said to them: There can be no bargaining and the hijackers' demands cannot be met. The airliner remained at Algiers airport. You know the rest of the story until all the plane's passengers and crew were released.

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to sister Algeria, its president, government, and people for their efforts and positive cooperation which resulted in the passengers' release.

Brothers, those who suggested to and encouraged those agents to commit such a crime thought Kuwait was bound to submit to the hijackers' demands. You know that when they were at Mashhad, and when they were in Cyprus and in Algeria, the hijackers were making threats and demanding the release of all the prisoners. Then they gave way and asked for the release of some of the prisoners. Kuwait totally rejected this.

Brothers, I always told you our people's strength lies in the cohesion of the domestic front. I told you this more than once and in more than one place. My expectations turned out to be true because this strength was demonstrated and our people stood in the same rank. Moreover, our people's men, women, old men, and youths said in one voice: We reject submission and blackmail.

We have proved to the entire world that Kuwait is a country of principles and stands. I repeatedly announce that all of us are completely ready for sacrifice and for paying a dear price for the sake of the might and dignity of our beloved homeland.

Brothers, all of you, along with the whole world, followed up the firm stand adopted by the Kuwaiti amir, government, and people. As cabinet members, we worked lengthy hours and we were always guided by the instructions and directives of the sponsor of our development, may God preserve him.

However, and despite this courageous stand adopted by the people, I heard painful rumors in the past few days. There were rumors disseminated by tendentious people to the effect that releasing the hostages took place after the government paid, or promised to pay, huge sums and that there was a bargain.

Brothers, this painful rumor is meant to fragment the domestic front. However, and out of my responsible post and as I always feel the heavy responsibilities I am shouldering, I do not care about these rumors.

I want my brother citizens to always be extremely cautious and vigilant and to follow up the activity of those who disseminate such false rumors. Brothers, this is what I wanted to tell you in this fraternal, cordial meeting.

I ask God Almighty to safeguard our homeland from all mishaps and to grant all of us success to do whatever is good for our beloved homeland under the leadership of his highness the amir, may God protect him. Thank you, brothers. Now you are free to pose questions to me. Thank you. [Passage omitted]

'Ali ibn Yusuf al-Rumi, chief editor of the magazine MIR'AT AL-UMMAH: Your highness the prime minister, we all know that prior to the airliner's hijacking you were rejecting bargaining and blackmail and that you would not make any concession at the expense of Kuwait and its dignity.

However, THE NEW YORK TIMES, cited by AL-AHRAM, said there was a bargain or an agreement to cancel all legal verdicts passed on the the 17 criminals as a prelude to releasing them several months later.

His highness the heir apparent and prime minister: The writer of this article has the right to draw conclusions and to speculate. However, I would like to assert to you that the issue of bargaining is out of question and that the rumors being disseminated these days are untrue. [passage omitted]

Ahmad Yusuf Bahbahani, chief editor of the magazine AL-YAQAZAH and head of the journalists' society: Generally speaking, I regrettably note that after an incident has taken place there is always a state of relaxation in Kuwait. People expect that those responsible for an incident will be punished.

But regrettably we always find that punishment does not conform with the incident. Therefore, we hope punishment this time will befit the seriousness of the incident.

His highness the heir apparent and prime minister: This is a good question and I should explain this particular point. I do not deny that in the past we adopted a tolerant policy that dealt patiently with matters and sometimes we even granted pardons.

Regrettably, some people said such a policy was due to weakness, fear, or hesitation. But I tell you from now on there will be no indulgence, no compromise, and no tolerance toward those who seek to tamper with the security of the homeland and the citizens regardless of their nationality or position.

AL-SIYASAH Deputy Chief Editor Sulayman al-Jarallah: Your highness heir apparent and prime minister, it is said that one of the reasons for having no guards on the plane is a financial one and a disagreement between the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Interior. Is this true?

Heir apparent and prime minister: I know that this is said in private gatherings and home meetings. I do not want to be ahead of the committee and specify the party, whether the Ministry of Interior or the Ministry of Finance.

We all must await the full comprehensive report that will be presented by the chairman and members of the committee which was assigned the task of making inquiries into this matter. [passage omitted]

AL-ANBA' chief editor Faysal al-Marzuq: I hope your highness will be patient with me, and I would like to say first that when the committee's report is issued it should be made public.

It is the right of every Kuwaiti to know this. I do not like to talk about responsibilities, but I think that Kuwait should now specify its stand vis-a-vis the countries it is dealing with.

According to certain information that I and the other newspaper chief editors gathered in a meeting with some Foreign Ministry officials on 11 April, a number of points need to be explained frankly:

The Kuwaiti Government did not condemn Iran over the criminal act it perpetrated, despite the fact Iran is the criminal, the planner, and the reason for killing our sons.

The most ample evidence for this is the autopsy carried out on the body of the late 'Abdallah al-Khalidi. It has been made clear that he was killed in Mashhad and given the mercy shot in Larnaca.

The other thing is that, regrettably, some brothers did not cooperate with the Kuwaiti Government as appropriate. The Kuwaiti people are tired of flatteries and wagers.

Let us be specific and say who is with us and who is against us. We are tired. Each of us has been ready for death since birth. Those who fear death can never live. Let us live with pride. We take pride in the fact that you did not yield to the criminal hijackers.

Heir apparent and prime minister: Brother Faysal, I said at the beginning of my address that I am glad to have this fraternal meeting. I am glad to listen to all your questions and inquires which I will answer fully and comprehensively so that you will leave the meeting with a clear picture.

As regards our method and the naming of the aggressors and their supporters, we identified the party more than once. I hope you read the official statements issued over the past few days.

As regards sisterly Syria, we contacted our brothers in Damascus when the plane was on its way from Mashhad to Beirut and after the Lebanese authorities, rightfully, did not allow the plane to land.

Thank God the plane did not land at Beirut airport. If it had, things would have been complicated greatly. We knew the plans and goals of the hijackers. They wanted to take the passengers to more than one hiding place.

Thanks to the Lebanese authority that decided to close Beirut airport. We contacted our brothers in Syria requesting that the plane be allowed to land in Damascus and efforts be made to release the hostages there.

The high-ranking officials in sisterly Syria responded to the Kuwaiti request. To be specific, when the captain headed toward Damascus airport and asked for permission to land, he was told that instructions had not yet reached the airport authority. We again contacted the officials, but at that time the captain had made his final decision and headed to Cyprus.

As regards cooperation with our brothers in Algeria, the dialogue was fruitful and constructive. Only God knows what is in their hearts, but I must say that the dialogue that took place between us and our brothers in Algeria was held in a brotherly and cordial atmosphere. The result of this dialogue was the release of the hostages. [passage omitted]

Ghazi al-Jasim, AL-WATAN newspaper: Heir apparent and prime minister, in his address to the Kuwaiti people, the amir, referring to the hijacked plane, said the hijacking overshadowed news of the Palestinian people's uprising. Perhaps the amir was hinting at the Mosad's connection with the hijacking?

The heir apparent: So far we do not have any information confirming the role of the Israeli intelligence service or any other intelligence service. However, if tonight or tomorrow someone should come and say to me that the Israeli intelligence service had a role I would not be surprised.

However, so far I do not have any definite information. All of us know that Israeli activity and criminal actions are directed against Kuwait and all other Arab states.

We have the vivid example of the assassination of the hero Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] that illustrates the activity of the Israeli intelligence service. With regard to the plane "Al-Jabiriyah" so far I do not have any information.

As I said to you I will not be surprised if I should hear information about a role—whatever it may be—played by the Israeli intelligence service. [passage omitted]

Ahmad al-Nafisi, editor in chief of AL-TALI'AH: Heir apparent and prime minister, we thank you for this invitation and for these kind words. We are proud of your testimony for the Kuwaiti press and we hope it will be translated into facts by supporting the press materially, by supporting the freedom of the press and easing the task of our brothers at the Information Ministry, and by having a Kuwaiti press that is proud of itself as it always has been and as you used to describe it.

With regard to the hijacking and its consequences: The brothers here reported a great deal about the hijacking. However, there is one question still in mind:

Why were the hijackers allowed to go unpunished? Why did the Kuwaiti Government not ask that they be tried in Algiers or here? Two of our citizens were killed and their bodies mutilated when thrown from the plane to the ground. The entire world was disgusted by that sick crime.

Heir apparent and prime minister: I must answer your question frankly. When talking about the Kuwaiti press we must realize there are differences between the stands of the Kuwaiti papers. I must say that some newspapers in no way experienced the same ordeal we did.

The second point—with regard to support. The information minister is with us. He heard your proposal and will study it in the near future.

The third point in your question: The arrest of the hijackers. That must take place in cooperation—as I said at the beginning of my statement when I appealed to the fraternal states—there must be constructive cooperation on the pursuit, trial, and punishment of terrorists. We hope that such cooperation exists between us and all fraternal and friendly states. [passage omitted]

Jasim Mubarak, editor in chief of the magazine AL-RISALAH: We heard the hijackers left Algeria. Is that true?

The heir apparent and prime minister: Is that true? I also ask.

Yusuf al-'Aliyan, editor in chief of KUWAIT TIMES: It was reported that two of the hijackers are Kuwaiti nationals. How true is that?

The heir apparent and prime minister: I heard that. I do not think so—unless false Kuwaiti passports were used. The information received from various sources indicates there was more than one Bahraini national, but their passports could have been false.

There are false Iraqi passports and false Lebanese passports. If there was more than one Kuwaiti it is possible they used false Kuwaiti passports. We have information confirming that one of the hijackers is a Kuwaiti national. The fact is there were many rumors but I would like to say—but never mind, let's not answer this question. [passage omitted]

Official Views Aims of 'Unpardonable' Hijack

PM271053 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Apr 88 p 1

[Fadyah al-Zu'bi report: "AL-RASHID to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Killing Two Passengers Was a Crime, and We Will Take Measures To Punish Those Who Committed It"]

[Excerpt] Kuwait, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Kuwaiti Minister of State for the Cabinet 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid has announced that Kuwait has not been informed of the whereabouts of the hijackers of the "Al-Jabiriyah" airliner.

On whether Kuwait will request punishment of those who murdered the two Kuwaiti passengers, he said, in an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, that what happened is an unpardonable crime, that the country will shoulder its responsibility for its citizens' rights, and that the quarters concerned in Kuwait will take the necessary measures in this regard.

Al-Rashid emphasized that the hijacking operation was originally intended to abort the gains achieved by the Arab nation via the uprising in the occupied territories, and that the hijacking continued for 16 days to eclipse the other gains, namely the Iraqi forces' liberation of the Al-Faw peninsula from Iranian occupation.

He also said that the events as well as the long duration of the hijacking were manifested in the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and in Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's failure to fulfill his pledge to the U.S. Administration, namely to eliminate the uprising on 15 April. [sentence as published]

About his view of the proposal for a world counterterrorism organization, that is, for groups to be formed or plans drawn up to combat terrorism, he said: Although we have received nothing official in this regard, we support any action that would firmly establish international law and order. The world must find the tools to achieve more stability.

At its weekly meeting yesterday under heir apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Salim al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers decided to form a committee headed by the justice and legal affairs minister and comprising four members from outside the government sector to investigate the circumstances and conditions surrounding the hijacking as well as the contributory factors, so that the security gaps that led to the incident can be determined.

Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid added that the committee must submit its report to the council within 3 months. [passage omitted]

PDRY

YSP Secretary General Interviewed on Unity Talks

JN271204 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 25 Apr 88 p 9

[Interview with YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid by Mahbub 'Ali in Aden—date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-ITTIHAD: What did your recent meeting with President Salih in Ta'izz achieve in terms of relations and unity?

Al-Bid: My first meeting with Colonel President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih was in Sanaa, the historic capital of Yemen, from 21-24 July 1987. The first summit was preceded by a series of meetings between leaders of the two parts of Yemen on various levels.

During these meetings, we took steps toward promoting relations between the two parts of Yemen and we exerted every effort to eliminate differences and give our steps a sense of continuation and progress.

This meeting was important because it expressed the spirit of continuation and progress toward unity. It also expressed our deep desire to promote our efforts to acheive unity.

We believe that such meetings will increase confidence and contacts between the leaderships of the two parts of Yemen and will also reinforce good intentions and constructive brotherly understanding.

Only through this can we hold the basic link, which will lead us to constructive work in accordance with the higher interests of the Yemeni people.

We left for Ta'izz with a deep belief in our noble goal and the aspirations of the good and militant Yemeni people. Noble goals require noble means. Therefore, we believe that peaceful dialogue is a good way to achieve our great goal in reunifying the homeland—land and people.

We are in dire need of peace and security in Yemen because we have to benefit from any human and material resources to develop and overcome the backwardness which our people have inherited from the situation that prevailed before the revolution and independence.

During the summit meeting with Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, we reached an agreement in which we affirmed that peaceful dialogue is the only way to deal with all Yemeni issues and that we absolutely reject the logic of war.

In this way, we can reduce the military forces of the two parts of Yemen in border areas in order to eliminate the military presence in these areas. Regarding the joint investment projects, including the joint investment of natural resources between the Governorates of Ma'rib and Shabwah, the fraternal meeting in Ta'izz stressed the importance of these projects and the need to take every step to implement them.

AL-ITTIHAD: Does this mean there is an agreement on a joint formula to establish a joint Yemeni project for investing oil by the governments of the two parts of Yemen?

Al-Bid: Serious studies are under way to establish this project. Therefore, surveys will be conducted in the areas in which the project will be set up. Arrangements will be made in the near future to establish the project.

AL-ITTIHAD: In light of the agreement that was signed at the Ta'izz summit, can you rule out possibilities of armed confrontation between the two parts of Yemen?

Al-Bid: We have previously said that a sincere stand toward the issue of unity between the two parts of Yemen cannot coexist with endangering the Yemeni people's security and stability.

This stand cannot accept the shedding of blood of Yemeni citizens or soldiers. This stand also conflicts with the illusions to create an atmosphere to disrupt stability and security.

Regardless of pretexts and motives, the war between the two parts of Yemen is dishonest and unfair. In any case, it is a losing war and no one will benefit from it except the enemies of the Yemeni people who fought the glorious 26 September and 14 October revolutions.

Moreover, war is an effective means used by our people's enemies to foil their aspirations for progress and to exhaust their potential and resoures instead of devoting them to pushing the wheel of development.

The responsibility of the political leaderships in the two parts is now to avert the danger of war forever. Our efforts and policies focus on this issue. With this spirit, we have continued to push forward the wheel of normalization of relations between the two parts and to completely prevent this war through dialogue and understanding as a means to deal with any emergency problem.

AL-ITTIHAD: In light of the discovery of oil in Yemen, are you optimistic about achieving progress in the unity efforts on the road to declaring the unity state?

Al-Bid: Achieving progress in unity efforts basically depends on reinforcing the material base on which the unified Yemeni entity will be established. This will be done by creating joint material interests between the two

parts and further economic, cultural, and political ties that would create strong ties among the people and urge them to adhere to the unity objective and to strongly protect it when it is established.

The creation of economic integration, the promotion of trade exchange, and the reactivation of economic development plans would contribute to bolstering joint ties and interests on the road to achieving unity.

This is in addition to benefiting from oil as a strong material force to speed up the process of achieving Yemeni unity and the development of the existing joint economic projects and institutions. [passage omitted]

AL-ITTIHAD: Have you decided to reactivate the work of the unity committees, including the minsiterial committee and the Supreme Yemeni Council, which were suspended after the 13 January events in Aden?

Al-Bid: During the Ta'izz meeting, emphasis was laid on the normalization of relations between the two parts of Yemen as they stood before the 13 January events. It was agreed to resume the activity of the unity committees from where they stopped before the events, and to ractivate the work of the existing unity committees.

The Ta'izz meeting has entrusted the Supreme Yemeni Council's Secretariat with setting the timetable concerning the constitution of the unity state to refer it to the General People's Congress and the Supreme People's Presidium in the two parts of Yemen in order to call for a referendum on the constitution in light of the joint unity agreements.

AL-ITTIHAD: Will these steps begin soon?

Al-Bid: We hope the Secretariat will set a timetable soon for the meetings of the Supreme Yemeni Council and the ministerial committee, and another timetable for the meetings of the joint unity committees. [passage omitted]

Soviet Military Delegation Visits Governorate

EA272109 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] A Soviet military delegation led by Comrade Admiral Sidorov, candidate member of the Central Committee and deputy commander in chief of the Soviet Navy, currently in Democratic Yemen, concluded a visit to Hadramawt Governorate this morning.

During their visit to the governorate, the members of the delegation met a number of officials with whom they reviewed aspects of cooperation between our country and the Soviet Union in all fields.

They heard a detailed explanation of development in the governorate and its achievements. The Soviet delegation also visited the new housing at the Soviet-Yemeni friendship estate in Fuwwah, the Fuwwah central hospital and the Fuwwah agricultural cooperative. The delegation also visited the museum of antiquities at Al-Mukalla.

During their visit, the members of the delegation acquainted themselves with development in the agricultural and service fields, and with the historical landmarks which reflect the uniqueness of the Yemeni people.

Saudi Arabia

'Source' on Decision To Break Ties With Iran

LD280023 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
2230 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] In reply to the statements by the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman as well as those by the Iranian energy minister regarding the decision by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to sever relations with Iran, which assert that the decision was made under foreign pressure, a responsible source told SPA:

This decision was not made on the spur of the moment. It has been under consideration since the beginning of the hostile practices that have been launched against the Kingdom by the existing Iranian regime since it came to power.

The Kingdom remains committed to its ethical Islamic line, repels harm by the best means, respects the rights of neighborliness, holds dialogue amicably, and faces these emotional stances with reflection and wisdom in hopes that reason will prevail and matters will be accurately assessed. This is our aim, target, and purpose.

The responsible source enumerated some of these hostile acts. He recalled how the Tehran government dealt with the Saudi Embassy there and asked if its storming, pillage, and the burning of its documents were a diplomatic action.

If diplomatic convention stipulates that this treatment should be reciprocated, has the Kingdom reciprocated this irresponsible behavior by acting similarly against the Iranian Embassy in Riyadh or its General Consulate in Jeddah?

Iranian Pilgrims Will Be Admitted Despite Break

NC2804102988 Paris AFP in English 1011 GMT
28 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Riyadh, April 28 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia, despite breaking ties with Tehran, will allow Iranian pilgrims to take part in this year's Mecca pilgrimage, but in numbers limited to 45,000, informed Saudi sources said Thursday. [passage omitted]

Narcotics Agreement Ratified With Syria

LD261935 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1510 GMT 26 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 26 Apr (SPA)—A cooperation agreement between the Interior Ministries of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic to combat narcotics was ratified today at the office of his excellency the Saudi under secretary for the interior, Dr Ibrahim al-'Awwaji. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Wheat Sold to USSR

A total of 104,079 tonnes of Saudi wheat was recently shipped to the Soviet Union. This is part of more than 170,000 tonnes sold to the USSR. It is expected that the remainder of the wheat will be shipped in installments so all consignments will be completed before the end of May. [Excerpt] [*LD280312 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Apr 88*]

Saddam Husayn Holds Talks With Yasir 'Arafat

JN271936 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn this evening received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. At the beginning of the meeting, the president leader extended heartfelt condolences on the martyrdom of struggler Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces.

He expressed deep confidence in the victory of the Palestinian Arab people in their legitimate struggle to liberate the homeland and to achieve their legitimate national rights regardless of precious sacrifices.

Yasir 'Arafat reiterated his warm congratulations to the president leader for the great victory achieved in the liberation of Al-Faw. He affirmed the unity of Arab struggle in confronting the covetous enemies and the forces of aggression and occupation.

The meeting dealt with the situation in the Arab arena, particularly the Palestinian Arab people's valiant uprising against the unjust Zionist occupation and means to support it so as to continue and escalate it until the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate objectives are achieved.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Salah Khalaf, Fatah Central Committee member; and the head of the PLO office in Baghdad.

'Aziz Receives 'Arafat

JN271915 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1728 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met with Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in Baghdad at noon today. The two sides reviewed the Arab situation, the preparations under way for convening the forthcoming Arab summit in Algeria, and the means for consolidating Arab solidarity in confrontation of the dangers engulfing the Arab nation.

The two sides also discused the situation in the occupied Arab territories and how to support the blessed uprising and our Palestinian people's steadfastness and confrontation of Zionist provocations.

They reviewed the latest developments of the Iraq-Iran war, particularly the liberation of Al-Faw, and the efforts under way to fully implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

Sa'dun Shakir, RCC member and deputy head of the Arab Liberations Office bureau, and other Iraqi officials attended the meeting on the Iraqi side. Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member; and Brother 'Azzam al-Ahmad, PLO representative in fraternal Iraq, attended the meeting on the Palestinian side.

Foreign Ministry Praises Saudi Decision on Iran

JN271751 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1725 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Apr (INA)—A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, in a statement to INA, has praised Saudi Arabia's decision to sever relations with the Iranian regime. He described this decision as logical and brave.

The spokesman said that the Iranian regime uses aggression, terrorism, and extortion against states, which cannot, from a practical point of view, carry on normal relations with it in accordance with the bases of international diplomacy.

He said that the Iranian regime has focused its aggressive policies and evil acts against the Arab states in particular, especially Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf states.

Therefore, Saudi Arabia's stand, with its well-founded motives, constitutes an example worthy of emulation by the states being subjected to various forms of aggression, extortion, insolent behavior, and interference in their internal affairs by the Iranian regime.

RCC Issues Decision Granting Amnesty to Prisoners

JN271842 Baghdad INA in English 1755 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, April 27, INA—Prisoners serving sentences not exceeding ten years for economic crimes except for drug offences, would be pardoned on condition that they had already spent one year in prison, under a decision issued today by the Revolution Command Council.

The decision also covers those serving life sentences and had already spent to less than five years in prison and those convicted for defecting military service and are serving sentences for periods not less than three years and not more than ten years and had already spent not less than three years in prison.

It also covers prisoners sentenced for political crimes except for espionage, for periods not less than three years and not more than ten years and had already spent three years in prison.

The decision also covers those convicted for not less than three years and not more than ten years for theft crimes and had already spent three years in prison.

FRG Paper Says German World War II Gas Used
DW281005 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 28 Apr 88 p 1

[Pierre Simonitsch article: "Wehrmacht Gas in Gulf War"]

[Text] Geneva, 27 Apr—According to experts, a nerve gas called Tabun used in the Gulf war between Iraq and Iran probably comes from old German Wehrmacht stores via the Soviet Union and Egypt to Iraq.

Experts from various countries, who belong in part to the Geneva Disarmament Conference, have followed the trail of the chemical weapons used in the Gulf war.

In doing so they relied on laboratory analyses made from Tabun shells that did not explode in the war theater. The analyses showed that the substance had been stored a long time and was not especially produced for the Gulf war.

A UN investigation commission, in four visits between 1984 and 1987, found that Iraqi troops used Yperit (mustard gas), which is relatively easy to produce, and the complex Tabun as chemical warfare agents.

A new UN investigation report issued on Wednesday about the use of chemical weapons in the fight for Kurdish villages in northern Iraq shows that, judging by the survivor's wounds, mustard gas and Tabun have obviously been used. Neither Iraq nor Iran permitted the two UN representatives to inspect the poison gas zone.

Tabun was developed in the late thirties in Germany, but was never used in World War II. At war's end, 12,000 tons of Tabun in barrels, together with the production installation, fell into the hands of Soviet troops in Silesia.

The whereabouts of the captured material is still a puzzle, because the Soviet Union and the United States switched to production of the more effective nerve gases, Sarin and VX.

In the mid-sixties the Egyptians used chemical weapons in the Yemeni civil war. According to unconfirmed reports, at that time the Egyptians had obtained the poison gas from the Soviet Union. Egypt is now one of Iraq's weapon suppliers.

Armed Forces Command Issues Communique No 3,159
JN271819 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Communique No 3,159 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 27 April 1988]

[Excerpts] in the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

The following is a roundup of our units' activies for last night and today:

1. In the I Army Corps northern sector, two of the scoundrels were killed, one medium machinegun was destroyed, three vehicles were set ablaze and destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up. In the II Army Corps central sector, five scoundrels were killed.

2. Three mortar guns were destroyed and one enemy soldier was killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan. In the V Army corps northern sector, three of the aggressors were killed and one bulldozer [preceding word in English] was destroyed.

3. One machinegun and one observation post were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris. One 81-mm mortar gun, one infantry position, one shovel [preceding word in English] were destroyed, and three ammunition dumps were blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 April 1988

Civilian Wounded, 2 'Terrorists' Killed in North

TA271535 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] An Israeli citizen was moderately wounded on the northern border in a terrorist attack on a truck he was driving. The two terrorists who perpetrated the attack were later killed by an IDF force. Our soldiers did not sustain any casualties.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the terrorists entered Israeli territory at noon, opened automatic weapons fire and threw hand grenades at a truck. The truck driver, Dan Dahan from Qiryat Shemona, was wounded in his back and hands.

He later told our correspondent that he jumped off the truck which then turned over. The terrorists kept shooting at him and he took refuge behind the wheels of the truck.

An IDF force closed the area and started chasing the terrorists. When the squad was discovered in a mountainous area, the force raided the terrorists and killed them. Our reporter remarks that the scene of today's incident is close to that of yesterday's attack.

'Terrorists' Sought Hostages

TA271845 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] The Lebanese faction of the Front for the Liberation of Palestine headed by Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] announced in Beirut that the two terrorists who were killed in the northern border today were members of its organization.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that this fact also emerges from the documents found among the terrorists' possessions. This faction is headed by Tal'at Ya'qub.

The two terrorists who were killed today were on their way to stage a terrorist attack in Israel in order to take hostages. According to documents in their possession, the terrorists intended to demand the release of Palestinian detainees held in Israel and negotiate their demands through U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering.

The terrorists penetrated Israeli territory near Mount Hermon. They fired automatic weapons and threw hand grenades at a truck driving along the patrols road. The truck driver, a civilian from Qiryat Shemona, sustained moderate wounds but managed to escape. An IDF unit closed off the area and began a chase.

Upon detection, the IDF force raided the terrorists and killed them. Our troops did not sustain any casualties. Soldiers from the unit that sustained two fatalities yesterday in an encounter with another terrorist squad yesterday nearby took part in the operation.

Shamir on 'Terrorist' Attacks, Syria-PLO Moves

TA280637 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir says every possible measure will be taken to ensure that no attackers penetrate into Israel. He was interviewed by Le'a Zinder.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] There is an increase of terrorist attacks on our northern border in the last month, but they have not succeeded. They will not succeed in the future, and we will take all necessary measures to continue to see to it that nobody of the attackers will penetrate Israel.

[Zinder] In your view, will the new alliance between Syria and the PLO affect Israel's security situation?

[Shamir] For the moment, it does not affect.

[Zinder] What about the future?

[Shamir] The future, we will see. I think that we will be able to handle it.

[Zinder] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Southern Lebanon Said Under Communist Control

TA271516 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] The terrorists who were killed in yesterday's clash with the IDF came from an area controlled by an extreme leftist communist organization. This organization and the small terror organization to which the terrorists belong are controlled by Damascus. Our correspondent in the north Hayim Hecht provides some background following the incident.

[Begin recording] The announcement published in Beirut yesterday, in which an organization called the National Resistance Front claimed responsibility for the attack on Mount Hermon, attests to the cooperation between Nayif Hawatimah's Palestinians and leftist groups in Lebanon, the communist organization being the most prominent of them.

Hawatimah's men are known in Lebanon as Marxists and, therefore, their connections with George Hawi [member of the independent Nasirite Al-Murabitun movement in Lebanon and Communist Party secretary general] are natural.

The names of the groups, however, have nothing to do with any kind of social policy. Many members of the communist organization are landowners and wealthy businessmen. The organization includes a large group of university graduates who are often referred to as the intellectuals in southern Lebanon.

The organization derives its power and uniqueness from the fact that its members come from all religions and ethnic groups, its men operate in small cells, and they can be encountered in almost all the southern villages.

They are particularly strong in the area known as Fatahland at the foot of Mount Hermon, on the eastern edge of the security zone. This is where the terrorist squad came from yesterday.

The communist organization's operations staff excels in intelligence gathering and choosing infiltration routes for terrorist squads. They abstain from taking part in attacks against Israel's borders, but they provide services to terrorists, mainly to Hawatimah's organization.

A strong Syrian influence in the area can be observed at present. The proximity of terrorist camps in Al-Biqa', the harsh topography of the area, and the ground services provided by the communist organization, have all put Fatahland back in the headlines. [end recording]

Peres Discusses Husayn's Stance, Tabah Issue

TA271252 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by Mikha'el Miro following an appearance before Labor Party students at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem on 27 April—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Miro] Mr Vice Prime Minister, King Husayn said he is not prepared to represent the Palestinians. Does this development not constitute a withdrawal from the London agreement?

[Peres] That was not all what he said. He also said he was ready to participate in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian framework. At the moment, though, the problem is not Jordan, it is Israel.

The problem is whether we have an Israeli option, not a Jordanian option. What [interruption in transmission] what this or that one says in theory, as long as there is no decision in Israel.

[Miro] Sir, you are leaving for the United States in 2 weeks. What is the political reason for this visit following the negative responses Shultz received in the USSR?

[Peres] First, I do not know whether he received negative answers. Neither you nor I know this.

[Miro] At least, this is what was said.

[Peres] We shall see. Anyway, it is not the end of the world. After all, if everything had been arranged and agreed, I would not have to travel anywhere. I could stay at home.

[Miro] Sir, another question on the Tabah issue: How can this prolonged dispute be ended? What is your view of this?

[Peres] There was an argument over whether to follow the path of compromise, or arbitration. We finally agreed to follow both roads. We would begin with compromise, and if necessary, move into arbitration.

At this stage compromise is still on the agenda. Mr Abe Sofaer of the State Department came to our aid on this matter. He is checking with both sides to see whether a fair compromise can be reached.

[Miro] What is your opinion?

[Peres] If possible, I am in favor of a fair compromise.

[Miro] Another question for you, as foreign minister: The press cards of foreign correspondents have been withdrawn. There have already been sharp reactions to this. What is your view? Is Israel's image harmed by this?

[Peres] I must admit that I did not participate in the decision-making process on this issue, and I simply am not sufficiently aware of all the details in order to determine a position.

[Miro] In other words, you would not have done this.

[Peres] That is not what I said. I said I am not fully knowledgeable on this issue. [passage omitted]

'Terrorists' Seized on Honduran Ship Deported

TA270528 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Six Palestinian terrorists seized from a Honduran merchant ship off the Lebanese coast 14 months ago have been deported. The six were flown from Ben-Gurion Airport, but the army spokesman did not give details of their destination.

The men were taken from the 600-ton "Maria R," which was carrying 50 terrorists from Greece to Lebanon in February 1987. The six were tried in Israel and had completed their sentences.

Procedures for Soviet Immigrants Said Changed

TA280539 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem has confirmed that Israel will soon compel Soviet immigrants to come by way of Romania, instead of through Vienna as at present, to reduce the number of dropouts: Soviet Jews who settle in Western countries instead of coming to Israel.

The spokesman confirmed that the Dutch Embassy in Moscow had stopped issuing Israeli entry visas, and the immigrants will be able to obtain them only in Bucharest.

He stressed that immigrants who do not wish to remain in Israel will be allowed to leave. He said the Soviet Union had no objection to the new arrangement and Romania was interested in it for financial reasons.

He explained that the new arrangement was adopted because the Soviet Union allows Jews to immigrate on the basis of requests for family reunification from any country, not just Israel. The spokesman did not say precisely when the arrangement would come into force.

Foreign Ministry Denies Deal

TA280803 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman has said that reports of an arrangement compelling immigrants from the Soviet Union to arrive via Bucharest are groundless.

Answering a question, the spokesman confirmed that Israel is indeed interested in direct flights of immigrants from the Soviet Union and is negotiating the issue with the Soviet Union, Holland, and Romania.

The talks are being conducted in a friendly spirit and are aimed at achieving an arrangement satisfactory to all parties. So far, however, no such arrangement has been made.

Rabin Comments on Arab Military Expenditures

TA271120 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Speaking to a delegation from Virginia this morning, Defense Minister Rabin disclosed that the Arab states now spend $40 to $60 billion dollars a year on military expenditures.

[Begin Rabin recording] The quality and the quantity of arms that are owned by several Arab countries is really unbelievable. Just to give you an example: Syria has got more tanks, better tanks, three times more than the French Army has, two times more than Britain, only a little bit less than the Federal Republic of Germany.

If tomorrow we will have an eastern front in which Iraq, Syria, and Jordan will join, we will have to withstand a tank force—if only 50 percent of the Iraq tanks will come to join the eastern front—that is almost equal to all of NATO's tank force in Europe, including the U.S. 7th Army in Europe. [end recording]

Deqel Cited on 'Improved' Iraqi Missiles

TA270758 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mikha'el Deqel says that German experts have reduced the warheads of the Scud missiles used by the Iraqi Army. As a result, the Iraqis can now propel these missiles a greater distance.

The deputy defense minister said this to our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe. He said these improved missiles can easily reach Tel Aviv.

IDF 'Final Report' on Bayta Incident Released

TA271403 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] [Announcer] The investigation conducted by the IDF into the events at the village of Bayta shows that Tirtza Porat was apparently shot by the weapon of Romam Aldubi, the security escort.

The report states that the hiking trip had in no way been coordinated with the army. At the office of the commander of the IDF Central Command is our correspondent Arye Gus with additional details on the report.

[Gus] The final report on the Bayta incident, during which the late Tirtza Porat and two Arab villagers met their deaths, has at long last been released. The report concludes that Tirtza Porat was killed by Romam Aldubi's weapon after the hikers were forced to enter the village.

As for the attack itself, only a few local inhabitants helped rescue the hikers. The report determines that Romam Aldubi proceeded impetuously insofar as the use of arms is concerned, and refutes the possibility that an explosive charge or additional shots were directed at the youngsters.

Let us listen to Major General 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, summarize the report.

[Mitzna'] 1) The motivation and aggression of local Arabs and their readiness to attack Israeli hikers were the main reasons for the occurrence of the incident and its tragic aftermath.

2) The planning and coordination of the hiking trip according to regulations would have prevented the incident and its tragic consequences.

3) Negligence in the use of weapons, lack of caution, and haste in opening fire were the supplementary causes for the escalation of the events.

[Gus] This is the report on the Bayta affair. It does not entail any surprises or innovations beyond what has already been published. The public argument over these tragic events will probably continue.

[Announcer] The report on the investigation into the Bayta affair also states that Romam Aldubi shot and killed one of the villagers from about 15 meters away as the youngster was trying to escape.

Aldubi opened fire for the second time when an attempt was made to grab his weapon, wounding his assailant. The report also goes on to say that throughout the trip there was a serious confrontation between the guide Menahem Ilan and security escort Aldubi, in the course of which Ilan pointedly asked Aldubi not to use his weapon.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said he has no doubt that the punitive measures taken by the defense establishment against the inhabitants of Bayta were justified. According to him, these measures were based on the initial investigation of the affair.

Rabin, Shamir Comment

TA271812 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Questioned about the Bayta report by Alan Ben-'Ami, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said he had no reservations about the punitive actions taken against the villagers who had attacked the Jewish teenagers on a hike in the area.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] Well, first and foremost, it was an expression of hatred, violence vis-a-vis a group of Israeli children that happened to be there.

[Ben-'Ami] What part do you feel should be attached to the fact that one of the guards with those children used his weapon on more than one occasion during the incident?

[Rabin] I don't want to go into details. The details will be brought in great explanation or wide explanation later on today.

[Ben-'Ami] Are you satisfied though that the action taken against the villagers—deportations, the blowing up of houses—was justified in the light of the findings?

[Rabin] Whatever we have done—and I am responsible for that— in terms of the destruction of the houses, the deportation, and the arrests, were made after we finished the investigation of the Arab population in the village. What took longer was the police investigation of the Jewish element of it.

[Ben-'Ami] What do you say of the lessons that should be drawn for the settlers in the territories and for the Arabs in the territories?

[Rabin] I don't want to sum it up before the details will be published. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1730 GMT on 27 April adds: "In his first reaction to the report on the events in the village of Bayta, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said we trusted and we continue to trust the investigation conducted by the security authorities, and this report is no exception. Referring to the numerous terrorist attacks in the northern border, Shamir said that the terrorists are trying to prove that terrorism is alive and kicking and they are particularly active when relative calm prevails in the territories."]

Settlers 'Satisfied'

TA280505 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Jewish settlement leaders say they are satisfied with the Army's report on Bayta. They say they are prepared to coordinate future hikes in the territories with the Army. Steve Rodan has more:

[Begin recording] [Rodan] Jewish settlement leaders breathed a sigh of relief when they received the report on the Bayta attack. Although the report was critical of the way the Passover hike to Elon More was organized and the behavior of armed escort Romam Aldubi, settlement leaders were satisfied with the Army's chief conclusion: that the responsibility for the clash in Bayta rests with its Arab residents.

Even Aldubi's family said they were relieved; they said they had feared that the conclusions would attempt to blame the incident on Aldubi.

Last night the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea and Samaria and Gaza met to discuss the report, and settlement leaders said they would work to coordinate all hikes in the territories with the Army.

One settlement figure even criticized Aldubi's conduct during the incident. The Army report says the 26-year-old fired irresponsibly, and in the end let off a round of bullets from his M-16, and accidentally killed Tirtza Porat.

With the release of the report, senior Army officials now see the Bayta incident as behind them. The head of Army Central Command, Major General 'Amram Mitzna':

[Mitzna'] The incident is over. Bayta is still under military regulation, and there could be, maybe there will be some other arrests according to the investigation of the locals which is still going on. But, generally speaking, I can say that the Bayta event is over.

[Rodan] But critics say that the organizers of the hike should be prosecuted for negligence. Mitzna's reply: That decision must be left to the police and the courts. [end recoding]

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Qezi'ot Detainees Appeal

TA280444 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Seven residents of the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp were injured last night in a clash with soldiers. The seven were treated at the hospital near Bethlehem, at Bayt Jala, and most of them were sent home.

A Voice of Israel reporter says the soldiers entered the camp after being attacked by residents throwing rocks.

Seventeen detainees from the territories have petitioned the High Court to order the army to move them from the Qezi'ot detention facility in the Negev to one inside the territories.

Their Israeli lawyer, Felicia Langer, says it is against the Geneva Convention to move residents from what she calls occupied territory into the occupying country.

Ari'el Settlers Attacked

TA280540 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Stones were hurled last night at Ari'el Council head Ron Nahman's car. The car was slightly damaged, but there were no casualties. The incident took place near Mashah, in the vicinity of Samaria's Elqana.

Jewish residents from Hebron and Qiryat Arba' have reported that a group of women walking through the center of Hebron were stoned last night. Immediately afterward, a large-scale Arab riot broke out on the rooftops of the city's downtown area, accompanied by shouts of: Idbah al-Yahud ["Slaughter the Jews" in Arabic].

The spokesman for the Qiryat Arba' residents said that the IDF responded with tear gas and gunfire, but the riot continued late into the night.

8 Janin Residents Detained

TA280848 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] In Yafa near Nazareth, the police detained eight Janin residents suspected of throwing stones at a Nazareth-Haifa-Egged bus last night. Nobody was hurt in the incident, but the bus windshield was shattered. This was reported by our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz.

Parents Liable for Children

TA2804120888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] A new regulation regarding the responsibility of parents from the territories for their children's conduct has been issued by the Military Judge Advocate's Office.

The regulation makes it possible to compel parents of children under the age of 12, who were apprehended while participating in riots, to sign a financial guarantee.

If the children's criminal conduct recurs, authorities will be able to fine the parents, or even prosecute them. This was reported to Justice Minister Avraham Sharir who visited the Military Judge Advocate's Office.

Strike in Judaea, Samaria

TA2804124488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] There was an almost complete commercial strike in Judaea and Samaria today. Only the wholesale market in Hebron remained open. There were also disruptions in public transportation and in the departure of laborers for work in Israel.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the organizations in the territories [not further specified] called on the inhabitants to stage a general strike in memory of the victims of the uprising. There have been no reports of disturbances. Curfews remain in effect in 'Anabta and the Nur al-Shams refugee camps, and the blockade continues on the village of Bayta.

Funds for Territories Seized

TA271840 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Apr

[Text] Large sums of money which were meant to finance the uprising in the territories have recently been captured at Ben-Gurion Airport. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that one of the failures of the terrorist organizations is their inability to compensate residents of the territories whose houses were demolished or who resigned from their work and are unable to support themselves.

King Reiterates Stand on PLO Representation
JN280707 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28-29 Apr 88 pp 1, 5

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn said Wednesday the Arab Nation was currently exposed to external and internal threats aimed at its resources and that this nation stands firm and determined to defend the Arab Order and Arab rights.

The King outlined Jordan's stand on efforts towards reaching a solution to the Palestine problem, defending the Arab order and achieving Arab unity.

Speaking at an Iftar banquet he hosted for dignitaries from Al-Zarqa Governorate, the King said that Iraq was blocking all attempts against the Arab Order and nation and shattering the dream of establishing a Persian empire based on a racist hatred of Arabs.

The King said: "There is no other explanation for the continuation of this (Iranian) aggression against Arabs and Arab lands for eight years with this ferocity and this determination."

He said the Iranian regime was "attempting to exploit religion and faith to strike at the people who lived and still live in the sanctity of Islamic holy places at the heart of the Islamic World."

He told the Iftar gathering at the Armed Forces Officers Club in Al-Zarqa that on the other side, "Jordan stands at the longest confrontation line with a formidable power that possesses the same excuses and intentions and hatred towards our Arab Nation, our faith and all that is sacred to every single one of us."

In reference to the five-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories, the King said that the people in the occupied territories lived through 20 years of occupation and injustice at a time when all people were concerned with human rights.

"Then came the explosion and this uprising to affirm in the occupied lands, as the Iraqi steadfastness does on Arab lands, that the Arab human has not weakened and will not weaken and that we have a great duty and responsibility towards our kinsmen in the occupied territories," the King said.

Following are major excerpts of the King's speech:

"Husayn I preferred to sacrifice everything in his commitment to the Prophet's pledge, never to give up the Palestine cause and the Palestinian land. King 'Abdallah sacrificed his life for the cause and we are all following the same course... perhaps circumstances impose it on us to pay more attention than before to deprive the enemy of all chances to hurt us and our steadfastness. Thank God, we have covered many stages in building our strength and we have exerted and will continue to exert more efforts.

"The obstacles that stand in our way are not in the area of people's preparedness, awareness, loyalty or dedication... they may be material obstacles. But despite that, our Arab army which carried out its duty in Jerusalem in 1948 consisted of 6,500 Arab men. The Arab army today numbers 120,000 men in addition to the People's Army, the reserves and modern weaponry that are in safe hands as a shield for this nation and in confrontation of threats and a hope in the inevitability of the return of rights to the rightful owners.

"And if conditions in this world are in favour of realising the full rights of the people of Palestine through political action, our opinion in this is very clear, honest and known. It is that this must be achieved through the convening of an international conference to be attended by all parties to the conflcit in addition to the five permanent members of the Security Council on the basis of United Nations Resolution 242 and 338 that guarantees the inadmissibility of the occupation of land by war in addition to other articles. And what needs to be stressed is that the Palestine problem must be solved in all its aspects. And if this is the goal, then the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) must essentially take part and contribute effectively in this conference as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. "I was going through my papers today and I found this paper that contains the historic decision to unite the two banks (of River Jordan) dated April 24, 1950. First of all, this document endorses a full unity based on the constitutional parliamentary system and equality in rights and duties among all citizens.

"Secondly, it stressed the guaranteeing of all Arab rights in Palestine and defending these rights by all legitimate means and a final settlement within the binds of national aspirations, Arab cooperation and international justice.

"I want to say honestly, sincerely and unequivocally that this was the position in 1950 and this is the position now in terms of stressing the full Arab rights in Palestine and defending these rights by all legitimate means and the final settlement within the binds of national aspirations, Arab cooperation and international justice.

"In other words, the tryst that has waited these years was not an alternative and will never be one day an alternative for the effort, but was part of gathering resources to restore Palestinian rights. And whoever joined Jordan throughout these long years did not and will not lose his rights on his national Palestinian soil that we hope God will help us restore in the near future.

"We have no ambition or intention or goal but to carry out our duty of supporting the march and standing on the side of right so that the rights are restored to its

owners. This course was drawn for us by those who passed before us on the long road, including Husayn ibn 'Ali who has sacrficied everything, was exiled and died for Palestine and now rests beside Al-Aqsa.

"We will not divert from this course and this is why we insist to attend an international conference as a sovereign and independent state if it was convened and we insist that all concerned Arab parties must attend at the forefront of whom is the Palestine Liberation Organisation. We will not be a replacement for the organisation nor a representative of the organisation or the Arab Palestinian people... the Palestinian cause cannot be resolved without full Palestinian participation and full Arab support, and we are at the forefront in this field, this is what I wanted to concentrate on and have talked about recently.

"Our means for achieving our goals and fulfilling our duties is through cooperation, solidarity and coherence in a way that relieves our conscience and makes us feel we have done what we can for a better future."

The Iftar banquet in Al-Zarqa was attended by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zayd Ibn Shakir, a number of ministers, parliamentarians and other officials.

King Contacts Iraqi, Saudi Leaders 27 Apr

JN280646 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28-29 Apr 88 p 1

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn Wednesday contacted Saudi Arabia's King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz by telephone and exchanged with him views on current Arab issues which require unity and solidarity among Arab brethren, and stressed Jordan's firm support of Saudi Arabia vis-a-vis Iranian provocations.

The King also contacted Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to inquire about Iraq's steadfast stand on the front against Iranian aggression.

The King also received a telephone call from Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), who expressed to the King his appreciation of His Majesty's condolences and his stand over the assassination of martyr Khalil al-Wazir.

King Receives Al-Wazir's Widow, PLO Delegation

JN271659 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Intisar al-Wazir, the widow of martyr Khalil al-Wazir; and her son Jihad, at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon. They were accompanied by a Palestinian delegation composed of Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, PNC speaker; Salim Za'nun, deputy PNC speaker; and Muhammad Milhim, Rafiq al-Natshah, 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, and 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, PLO Executive Committee members.

Mrs Intisar al-Wazir and the PLO delegation thanked His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur for the kind gesture of visiting the widow of Khalil al-Wazir and offering their condolences on the passing away of the late Khalil al-Wazir.

AL-RA'Y on U.S. Abstention at UN on Al-Wazir

JN270914 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Apr 88 p 1

[Editorial: "Protecting and Applauding Terrorism"]

[Text] The United States abstained from voting for the Security Council resolution which was content with denouncing the assassination of martyr Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, without including any clear mention of the party that carried out the assassination, the Zionist entity.

The Security Council member states purposely ignored this mention so Washington would not veto the resolution. Abstention from denouncing terrorism, particularly organized terrorism as employed by the Zionist entity, clearly and directly means that the United States does not consider any Zionist action against the Palestinian people and the Arab nation—whether it be a mass murder; shelling of cities, villages, and camps; breaking of limbs; or starving Palestinian people in the occupied territory—a terrorist act.

By its continuous military, political, and economic support for the racist entity, the United States provides it with all means of power which allows it to continue its racist policy and commit the most horrible crimes of our time.

The abstention by the United States from denouncing the assassination of martyr Khalil al-Wazir constitutes a frank invitation for the Zionist entity to continue its terrorist actions, not only against the Palestinian people's leaders, but against the people themselves.

The use of the veto by Washington in support of this entity—and amid the international condemnation of its practices against the Palestinian uprising—is a declared expression of a principled U.S. stand toward the Palestinian people, Arab nation, and the legitimate right of this people and nation.

The danger of this U.S. behavior is that it provides immoral protection for the Zionist entity, protection not only for actions it has committed, but also for similar actions now in the planning stage.

Israeli sources have affirmed that the abstention from voting for the resolution to denounce the assassination of Abu Jihad came under orders from U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

If it is true that this secretary is preparing for a new tour in the direction of what he calls "a search for peace," then the question to be asked here is:

What kind of peace is Washington looking for when it provides the Zionist entity with all means of organized terrorism and the means to cover up this terrorism, and then it asks us to accept a U.S. mediatory role in the search for peace?

This will allow our enemy to lengthen its claws and provide it with conditions to pierce viciously into our bodies. This entity will be awarded after every terrorist action with admiration and applause in the same way as in the case of the assassination of martyr Khalil al-Wazir.

Israeli Measures Against Shopkeepers Criticized

JN270746 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Apr 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Time To Push"]

[Text] Having tried in vain almost every trick in the book of violent oppression to quell the Palestinian uprising, Israel has now turned its hand to a systematic bureaucratic campaign to inflict as much damage as possible to the economic fabric of Palestinian life in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Dozens of shopkeepers have been arrested for their refusal to abide by the occupation army's orders to open and close at dictated hours other than called for by the leadership of the uprising and wholesale traders who supply most of the essential goods to the West Bank have been closed down.

The first question that emerges is since when does any power have any authority to order shops opened or closed? But then we might be overlooking the very reality that things are not done by the Zionists the way they are done elsewhere in the world.

At the same time, the occupation authorities might be doing a service to the Palestinian uprising by confiscating identity cards of Gazans in a clear move to block their means of making a livelihood since it also means that many Israeli industries are deprived of the cheap labour they used to enjoy.

It is only typical of the short-term vision of the Israeli leaders which is only too evident in their entire outlook towards addressing the core issues involved.

However, the Israeli move to choke off material support for the Palestinians in the occupied territories from the outside is taking its slow toll, according to reports from the West Bank and Gaza.

That is indeed a very disturbing development since the steadfastness of the Palestinian people cannot forever be maintained on empty stomachs no matter how strong the resolve for liberation and freedom.

It might look well in theory that people do have to pay a very high price for liberation, but human nature tells us differently. The situation in the occupied territories may not have reached that stage yet, but it is not too far round the corner unless the Arab world comes up with innovative programmes to circumvent the impact of the overbearing Israeli campaign.

The time is here and now to push with all the Arab might and resources to ensure that the heavy price that the Palestinian people are paying in the 20-week-old uprising will not be outbidded by the occupation power's cunningness.

Reportage on Military Activity in the South

Towns Shelled

NC271712 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Resistance men have clashed with an agent Lahd militia patrol near (Barkat al-Jubur) in Al-Qatranah. Reports indicate that three of the patrol members were killed or wounded.

Meanwhile, occupation forces and their agents have escalated their acts of aggression against both the liberated and occupied territories. Among these acts are the shelling of the town of Maydun and its vicinity, as well as the outskirts of the towns of Mashgarah and 'Ayn al-Tinah in western Al-Biqa'; the storming of the towns of Al-Habbariyah, Kafr Hamam, and Kafr Shuba in Al-'Urqub, where searches were conducted and five citizens were arrested; and the combing of (Mazra' at 'Ayn Sujur), (Marj al-Zuhur), and the ridges of Jabal al-Dahr in Hasbayya.

In a separate development, the occupation forces in Al-Qantarah shelled the vicinity of Al-Ghanduriyah at midnight last night using 120-mm mortars, but no casualties were reported.

15 Lahd Casualties Claimed

NC271821 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] The Islamic Resistance has announced that one of its groups ambushed an agent Lahd patrol, comprised of a half-track vehicle and truck, in the Al-Qatranah area of western Al-Biqa' at 1430 today.

They attacked the patrol with machineguns and rockets, completely destroying it and killing or wounding 15 of its members.

Israelis Conduct Aerial Search

NC271925 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] An Israeli helicopter opened machinegun fire and fired rockets while searching for an armed group which attacked an Israeli truck today. Reports noted that two of the attackers were killed and the truck driver was wounded during the operation.

Herzog Visits Border Areas

NC2804075888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] According to reports from the South, tension and caution prevail in the liberated areas near the occupied areas as a result of the provocative and aggressive visit made by Hayim Herzog, head of the Zionist entity, to the occupied border strip areas.

The reports add that intensive military movements have been observed in all sectors of the occupied areas in the past few hours. Observers say that these moves are a result of the operations carried out by resistance fighters the past 2 days. The enemy admitted that two Israeli soldiers were killed and several others were wounded during these operations.

Last night, four helicopters raked the areas of Al-'Urqub and Hasbayya. The occupation forces raided some villages and launched a campaign of wide-scale arrests.

Mediation Team Discusses Southern Developments

LD271325 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, within the framework of mediation efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to solve the present crisis in southern Lebanon, last night the five-member committee for resolving the dispute held its first session in our country's embassy building in Beirut.

In this gathering, which was attended by 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, and Sayyid 'Abbas Musavi of the Hizballah ulema of Lebanon; Nabih Birri, chief of the Amal Movement; Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam deputy foreign minister for political affairs of our country; Ayatollah Jannati; and the ambassador of the Islamic Republic in Beirut, discussions were conducted on the latest developments in the situation in southern Lebanon and solutions put forward to resolve the differences.

Issues Statement on Fighting

NC271717 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] The five-member committee set up at the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran's delegation has met and issued a statement on the recent events in the South.

The statement pledges to stop using arms and to halt the propaganda war. The statement also affirms commitment to those who resist Israel until all territories have been liberated.

Birri Reportedly Rejects Hizballah Demands

NC271759 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Iranian efforts exerted over the past few days, in an attempt to return Hizballah fighters to the South, have not yet produced positive results due to Minister Nabih Birri's rejection of Hizballah's demands.

Meanwhile, the five-member committee assigned to end the Amal-Hizballah dispute held a 6-hour meeting at the Iranian Embassy today to follow up on the issue. [passage omitted]

According to sources close to the conferees, Hizballah insists the Amal Movement return all the weapons it confiscated in the South, as well as the positions it captured during the clashes.

Hizballah also demands that it be allowed to restore its political and military activities in the South. The same sources noted that Minister Birri did not fully respond to such demands and said that this and other issues should be handled by the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council.

Soviet Envoy on Improved Syrian-PLO Relations
NC271313 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Vasiliy Kolotusha, the Soviet ambassador in Lebanon, today expressed the Soviet Union's satisfaction at the improvement of relations between Syria and the PLO.

Speaking at the airport to a delegation from the Soviet-Lebanese Friendship Association that had just returned from a visit to Moscow, Ambassador Kolotusha stated that the Soviet Union had for some years made efforts to improve these relations.

This, he said, is in the interests of both Syria and the PLO, who share the view that a permanent and comprehensive solution of the Middle East problem must be found.

Islamic Grouping Praises Al-Asad-'Arafat Meeting
NC271546 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] The Islamic Grouping has expressed satisfaction with the meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, which it viewed as a great step toward unifying the Arabs and closing their ranks.

The Grouping has also voiced hope that the Arabs will soon hold an emergency summit conference, believing that a new situation has developed which should break the deadlock in the reform process.

The Grouping noted that it fears the explosion in Tripoli is a prelude to a series of criminal acts aimed at drowning the country in blood, anarchy, and catastrophes.

The Islamic Grouping held its weekly meeting at the mufti's office shortly before noon today under the chairmanship of [Former] Prime Minister Taqiy al-Din al-Sulh. [Former] Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh, and Deputies Zaki Mazbudi, Jamil Kibbih, Talal al-Mir'ibi, and Nazim al-Qadiri also attended.

Envoy Denies Knowledge of 'Spiritual Summit'
NC271434 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Today, the Algerian ambassador to Lebanon, Mas'ud al-Hadi, gave Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk, Foreign Ministry secretary general, a copy of a statement issued by the Algerian Foreign Ministry at the conclusion of the Kuwaiti airliner hijacking.

Meanwhile, the Algerian ambassador denied any knowledge of rumors that a Lebanese spiritual summit conference will be held in Algiers. However, he noted that his country is willing to help convene any meeting among the Lebanese brothers, be they political or spiritual figures.

Mas'ud al-Hadi expressed the hope that any rapprochement among Arabs would yield positive results in the Arab arena.

Zahlah Deputy Al-Ma'luf Dies of Disease
NC271138 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] The office of the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies was informed today that Zahlah Deputy Salim al-Ma'luf has died as a result of an incurable disease. This reduces the number of deputies to 76.

Newspaper Examines Hizballah Structure, Command
PM271115 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 20 Apr 88 p 15-17

[Untitled report by Jalah Muhammad]

[Excerpts] The hijacking of the Kuwaiti Airways plane (Flight 422) has again turned the spotlight on the identity of the hijackers, their party, political affiliation, and the group that supports them.

The intricacies of the Kuwaiti Airways case have clearly shown deep Iranian involvement in the operation.

Although several organizations, including Islamic Jihad and the Islamic Revolutionary Brigades, said that they would kill a number of American, British, and French hostages if any harm came to the hijackers or if the 17 people detained in Kuwait were not released, most analysts confirm that only one group was behind all these declarations, and that "the Islamic Jihad" and other such names are all names of one and the same party: Hizballah, the voice of Iran in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

How does Hizballah operate? According to a well-informed source, there is no local command for Hizballah in Lebanon because the Iranian Defense Council has not appointed a representative to head the party, which has remained directly linked to the Defense Council with members taking turns in assuming leadership of the party.

However, the council, with Khomeyni's approval, appointed (Al-Fahri) as a representative in charge of financial affairs. He moves between Damascus, Beirut, and Tehran and is in charge of all financial matters. He is in direct contact with Tehran.

As regards the command structure, it is as follows: Khomeyni is the supreme commander. Next come the ulema appointed by Khomeyni himself. They, in actual fact, are the active members who command the various bodies of the party.

The source says that there is a 12-member Hizballah consultative [shura] council in Lebanon. Eight of the 12 members are Iranians and the rest are Lebanese. The decisions are made by majority vote with Khomeyni having the final say.

There is a branch consultative council for the Al-Biqa' region, another for Beirut and its southern suburb, and a third for the South. A joint committee from the three councils is in charge of the affairs of the rest of Lebanon.

These consultative councils report to the higher consultative council. The higher consultative council has its own ideological, financial, political, informational, military, and other committees.

The branch councils also have their own committees, which are concerned with direct activity in the Lebanese arena.

The higher council publishes the monthly magazine AL-SABIL. A weekly magazine, AL-'AHD, covers news and political affairs. This is in addition to pamphlets which are issued periodically.

Hizballah collects donations, but Iran remains its main source of funds for all activities. The total monthly allocation for Lebanon is 10 million Lebanese pounds.

The party concentrates its activities in Al-Biqa', especially Ba'labakk and western Al-Biqa' where it is more influential than the Amal Movement. Recruitment to the party takes place in two stages. The first, which takes a whole year, is for so-called "indoctrination" of individuals.

The second is the regular phase when a person becomes a member of the party and carries out the military or organizational tasks assigned to him.

This party structure of Hizballah makes it quite different from the Amal Movement. The issues with which Hizballah is concerned are different from the issues which preoccupy the Amal Movement and other Lebanese parties.

The party carries out the missions assigned to it by the leadership in Iran. Primarily, they are the kidnapping and assassination of foreigners on the pretext that they engaged in suspect activities such as intelligence or espionage. Furthermore, the party has now joined the game of nations in the service of Iran before anything else.

Meanwhile, Hizballah tackles some dangerous issues. It is in a state of hostility with the Syrian forces in Lebanon, rejects alliances with the Lebanese political forces, and resorts to bloody methods to achieve its objectives.

It carried out such bloody operations as the attack on the Marine headquarters near the airport in which scores of people were killed, and the attack on the French forces headquarters in Beirut, in addition to numerous kidnapping and assassination operations. [passage omitted]

Iran Ties Said To Split Lebanese Shi'ites

PM271059 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Apr 88 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "Special Message to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT From Inside Iran on Riddle of Hizballah and Its Ties With Tehran"]

[Excerpts] London-Tehran—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT exclusive report: With the power struggle in Tehran and its likely effect on the entire Middle East strategy, Lebanon's extremist Hizballah Party in Lebanon is heading for a major crisis. That is the view of many experts watching developments in relations between Tehran and the Khomeyniite groups in several Middle Eastern countries.

According to a prominent Iranian diplomat who, until recently, was in contact with the Shi'ite movement in Lebanon, "The Hizballah leaders in Lebanon are now divided into two groups."

He adds that "one of the two groups is led by Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and it insists that the Shi'ites in Lebanon would have no future without Iran. The other group, led by Muhammad Shams al-Din, tends to gradually distance the Shi'ite movement in Lebanon from what it sees as Iran's national designs."

Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, former Iranian president under the Khomeyni regime, says that the clique currently in control within the Iranian regime has decided to drive Lebanon's Hizballah into the sea. Bani-Sadr adds that "Tehran no longer objects to the destruction of Lebanon's Hizballah by the Syrians."

According to Iranian sources in Tehran, the recent hijacking of the Kuwaiti plane returning from Bangkok reflected the confusion within the revolutionary commands both in Tehran and Lebanon.

The majority of the Iranian groups, the sources say, did not want such an incident to occur during Iranian elections, but other groups encouraged and may have

actually planned the hijacking as a way of demonstrating the ever-ready capabilities of the hard-liners organized and financially and ideologically supported by Iran.

There can be no doubt that the exiled Kuwaiti opposition members who had chosen Mashhad as their headquarters played an effective part in the hijacking, along with the Iraqi and Lebanese terrorist groups associated with Iran.

In the early stages of the hijacking the government authorities in Tehran considered storming the Kuwaiti airliner to dispel any suspicions regarding Iran and its position on the hijacking.

However, that step was vehemently opposed by Khomeyni himself, who ordered that the hijackers be given time to leave Iran. Khomeyni was the only person who could have put a peaceful end to the hijacking, but he refused to ask the hijackers to do so. [passage omitted]

The Iranian connection is no longer as acceptable to the Lebanese Shi'ites as it was a year or so ago. Some Lebanese Shi'ites critical of Khomeyni maintain that the latter pursues his major objectives without any significant regard for his supporters outside Iran.

A Lebanese businessman who is highly regarded in Tehran says that "the exaggerated contacts with Iran have now caused a rift within the Shi'ite community in Lebanon and divided it into two blocs: Amal and Hizballah. In Hizballah itself there are signs that other divisions are likely to occur in the near future." [passage omitted]

It is now certain that, apart from Khomeyni himself, none of the ruling mullahs in Tehran can claim to have any religious support in Lebanon. A prominent Lebanese Shi'ite says that "as soon as Khomeyni goes Iran will have nothing but money and power left, as in the days of the shah, and many of us dread that day."

The weakening Iranian standing with the Shi'ites of Lebanon is evident in the fact that today there is no longer any talk of setting up "an Islamic republic" in Beirut and the South.

Two years ago, 60 leading Hizballah figures signed a document which they declared was the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Lebanon, presented as a draft to be completed by 1990. Today, the implementation of such a plan appears to be more remote than ever.

That, however, does not mean that Tehran has actually accepted Syria's plan to destroy Hizballah with the help of Amal. Iran is likely to keep a network of supporters and agents in Lebanon without claiming that they would be the future rulers of Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the possibility of a deterioration in Syrian-Iranian relations over the future of Hizballah is not as strong as it was some 2 or 3 years ago. [passage omitted]

Further on Results of Syrian-Palestinian Talks

PLO Office To Reopen

NC271315 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Excerpts] The new course charted for Syrian-Palestinian relations following the meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and Yasir 'Arafat in Damascus continues to generate interest.

During this qualitative meeting the discussions focused on several issues: most importantly, supporting the Palestinian uprising; confronting the Shultz plan; convening an international conference with full power to impose a solution; recognizing the importance of a relationship with the Lebanese nationalist forces; emphasizing the fact that there is no alternative to the PLO; and making the forthcoming Arab summit the conference of the uprising.

A source that took part in the meeting between Al-Asad and 'Arafat told us that an agreement was reached under which committees will be formed to continue the dialogue on points of disagreement.

Sources in Damascus have told the Voice of the People that Yasir 'Arafat will return to Damascus for a ceremony to be held 40 days after the death of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], and perhaps earlier, to complete discussions.

Before 'Arafat left for Baghdad, these sources said, he met with Syrian Vice President Khaddam. Their meeting produced an agreement to form a joint committee to formulate a unified working paper for presentation at the forthcoming Arab summit.

Meanwhile, Faruq Qaddumi, director of the PLO's Political Department, has stated that the PLO offices will be reopened in Damascus. [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources have said that a joint Syrian-Palestinian delegation has been formed to brief Soviet officials on the results of the Syrian-Palestinian talks.

Talks Continue in Damascus

JN271330 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in Baghdad yesterday, will hold a meeting of the Palestinian leadership in Baghdad to discuss methods to escalate the uprising in the occupied Arab territory.

This was reported by 'Arafat's aides. Meanwhile, the Palestinian delegation led by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, continued talks with Syrian leaders.

Last night, Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam held lengthy talks with Qaddumi and the other Palestinian officials in Damascus on rebuilding the alliance between Syria and the PLO in the wake of the Al-Asad-'Arafat meeting.

This morning, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department and Fatah Central Committee member, left Damascus for Tunisia. Hani al-Hasan, Abu Mahir, and Muhammad Ratib Ghunaym, members of the Fatah Central Committee, remained in Damascus to resume Palestinian-Syrian talks.

Answering a question from AFP on the differences between Syria and the PLO and whether these differences have been overcome, a responsible Syrian source said: They are being discussed now. It will take time.

On the results reached, the Syrian source said that practical stands are required. He added that Syria has not closed its doors in the face of the Palestinians. Syria's stand is firm and principled. It is based on the principle of the Paletinian people's national rights, adhering to the liberation of the land, rejecting all forms of capitulation and direct talks with Israel, and adhering to the international conference and PLO representation in this conference, as the Syrian source put it.

The source added that whoever approaches this stand will come closer to Syria and whoever departs from it will be further away from Syria.

On the Syrian president's meeting with the Palestinian leader, the responsible Syrian source said: There were no personal differences, only political differences.

Answering a question on the reasons that made Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] visit to Syria possible, the responsible Syrian source said: After the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] Syria decided to open its doors to the Palestinians. There were contacts in the past. And what is taking place now is a continuation of these contacts.

The responsible Syrian source concluded by saying: The Al-Asad-'Arafat meeting focused on the Arab and Palestinian situation, the uprising in particular, and the existence of schemes hostile to the Arab rejection of capitulation. But, what are the results of the meeting? The Syrian official said: The dialogue continues.

Habash, Khalaf Comment

JN271956 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] At a press conference held in Damascus this evening, PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash confirmed five outstanding points of difference between Syria and the PLO.

These points pertain to the following issues: PLO-Egyptian relations, relations between the PLO and some moderate Israeli parties, the tactics employed to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict, the details related to the Palestinian presence in Lebanon, and readmitting Palestinian factions to the PLO fold, as he put it.

Habash called on the two parties to continue the dialogue and the process of normalizing relations. He accused Jordan and Egypt of seeking to thwart the normalization of Syrian-Palestinian relations.

He also accused some Arab states of working to torpedo the emergency Arab summit expected to be held in Algiers at the beginning of June through the endeavors by these states to readmit Egypt to the Arab League, as Habash said.

Meanwhile, an interview with Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] was published in London. In the interview, Abu Iyad affirmed that the meeting between President al-Asad and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Damascus—the meeting which he himself attended—resulted in an agreement between Syria and the PLO to preserve and escalate the uprising in the occupied territories; to voice joint rejection of the Shultz initiative, as this initiative ignores the Palestinian people's legitimate rights; to insist on the convening of an effective international conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict; and to ensure the success of the emergency Arab summit scheduled to be held at the beginning of next month.

Furthermore, Abu Iyad asserted that Syria will release during the coming few days the majority of the Palestinians detained in Syrian jails—detainees who number more than 2,000—thereby turning a new page in Syrian-PLO relations, as he said.

It remains to be said that the Fatah Movement's delegation left the Syrian capital this morning. The only Fatah official who remained there is Hani al-Hasan. It has been agreed to resume the dialogue within the framework of the joint committee which will be chaired by both Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi.

Commentary Points Out Shamir's 'Flimsy Logic'

JN271505 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has delivered a speech at a meeting of the Herut Party, which is the major party in the Likud bloc. In this speech, Shamir said that Israel will never abandon the West Bank and Gaza Strip and that the Arab inhabitants must understand this.

The West Bank and Gaza Strip are Arab territories that Israeli forces occupied in their 1967 aggression. Moreover, these territories are part of the Palestinian Arab state, as acknowledged by the UN General Assembly resolution on the partition of Palestine into two states—Arab and Jewish. This resolution was adopted to establish the racist Zionist entity in Palestine in 1948.

The resolutions adopted by the various UN bodies such as the Security Council, the General Assembly, and other bodies have confirmed that these are Arab territories that Israel must give up without preconditions and and as soon as possible.

Not a single country in the world supports the racist Zionist claim that these territories are Israeli and that Israel has the right to keep them.

The United States, which is the strategic ally of Israel and which has provided it and continues to provide it with the means of its existence and the means to commit aggression and impose occupation, calls for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338.

Irrespective of one's stand and the accompaniments to these two resolutions, the United States calls for implementing these two resolutions and for tampering with the translation of the English text by deleting the article "the" which came before the words Arab territories while this word was maintained in the French, Spanish, and Russian texts. Under these conditions, the United States wants the Arabs and Israelis to hold negotiations.

These two resolutions call on Israel to withdraw from the Arab territories that it occupied in 1967. This means that the two resolutions negate the Zionist claim that the occupied territories are Israeli.

When Shamir was foreign minister, he once said in Paris that the borders of Israel have been known since time immemorial and are demarcated in the Torah, which says that Jehovah promised them the land extending from the Nile to the Euphrates.

As is knwon, the Torah is not an authority of international law or part of the international agreements and conventions. That is why any claim based on it does not constitute a legal argument acceptable to the international community.

Through force and its components, which the United States provides them with, the Israeli rulers want to impose their flimsy logic and false claims first on the Arabs and then on the international community.

When the United States links its Middle East policy to that of the Israeli rulers and their demands, it becomes a cover for Israeli expansionist designs and a policy that seeks to forcibly impose Israel's will on the Arabs.

With what language can the United States speak if it supports Israel's demand that the international conference convene without any prerogatives, effectiveness, or commitment to implementing UN resolutions?

Israel, which wants negotiations with the Arabs without what it calls preconditions and without being committed to international law or to UN resolutions, wants to use these negotiations as an opportunity to impose its will on the Arabs and to wrest from them a writ capitulating and relinquishing their land and rights.

Shamir believes that force will allow him and his ilk to put forth his stupid theories about the Torah's rights in Palestine. This will show the world at large that Israel is truly and deeply hostile to peace; rejects respect for the UN Charter, UN resolutions, and international law; and scorns the people's rights.

It goes without saying that Israel's disregard for the UN resolution that permitted the establishment of a Jewish entity in Palestine beside the Palestinian Arab state that had existed since the end of World War I and that Great Britain was supposed to prepare for independence under the provisions of the mandate is a hostile action and a preparation for war and armed conflict.

This is because it is impossible in our contemporary world for any people to accept occupation or for the international community to condone the logic of violence, aggression, and expansion.

Afghanistan

Text of Najibullah Revolution Anniversary Speech

LD272335 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 26 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, 26 Apr (BAKHTAR)—Text of the speech by Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan at a meeting on the occasion of the 10th anniversary celebration of the April Revolution.

Dear compatriots, respected guests:

The people of Afghanistan are now marking the 10th anniversary of the April National Democratic Revolution together with some of our foreign guests. The path we have traveled during the past 10 years is equal to several centuries in its influence on the destiny of the Afghan people.

The 10 years since that revolutionary April have been the years spent finding peaceful and armed forms of struggle for democracy and searching actively for ways and means to eliminate socioeconomic backwardness.

The 10 years since that revolutionary April have been years in a difficult school for the Afghan people and their efforts to achieve development, a peaceful life and creative work and for the development of our patriots' comprehension.

The 10 years since that revolutionary April are a wealthy treasure in the PDPA's national experience in retaining a great capacity to serve the interests of the people and to reconstruct society. The 10 years since that revolutionary April have been years of victories and bitter lessons.

Every revolution—and the April revolution is no exception—is a complicated dialectical process. There are no prearranged blueprints for revolutions. Usually the fortunes of revolutions experience ups and downs.

This is especially true for those revolutions which solve general democratic tasks in countries with backward social structures. The April Revolution is the logical result of the social and economic processes in Afghanistan and, at the same time, is an unbreakable link in the chain of international revolutionary processes.

Reviewing numerous events in the history of Afghanistan and the world, we see clearly that international civilization and international freedom movements prepared the conditions for the victory of our revolution.

As a semicolonial and backward country, Afghanistan, which belonged to a system of feudalist serfdom from a cultural and economic point of view, and in some cases to a system of tribal relations, entered the 20th century. The existence of obvious differences in the social and moral life of society, political arbitrariness, indifferent treatment of national interests and the demands of the people, were the objective conditions which resulted in providing conditions for the struggle toward freedom, democracy and social progress.

Revolutionary and reformist thinking and ideas in Russia, Turkey, Iran, India, Japan and other countries entered the hearts of the Afghan patriots. Our freedom-loving fathers and forefathers and Afghan children who were against British rule in Afghanistan, raised their voices against colonialists and began the movement for political and social reforms.

The path before the Afghan strugglers was rocky and hard. Suffice it to recall that if some even spoke of constitutionalism, they were doomed to death. A number of our compatriots were blown up by the barrels of guns and a number lost their lives in dark jails.

The colonialist exploitation system, which for centuries had ruled over great masses in Asia and Africa and oppressed those masses and kept them backward, came under attack in 1917 with the victory of the Great October Revolution, and was eliminated as a result of progressive and liberating revolutions.

Mahmud Tarzi, the great Afghan struggler, who was deeply influenced by this revolutionary event, wrote: "The Russian revolution and the overthrow of the tsars, opened a great and brilliantly hopeful path before the Muslims."

The victory of Great October in Russia greatly influenced the current of events in Afghanistan and gave momentum to the country's intellectual circles. The ruling circles of the time, however, crushed the liberation efforts of our people.

The Afghan regimes of that time tried to obscure the identities of those who had waged indefatigable struggles against colonialism and oppression. They hoped, through rapid economic development from the top, to place obstacles in the path of democratic forces.

But economic crises increased further and the struggle for national reconstruction in a revolutionary and democratic manner became irreversible. Opposition groups and parties were formed by progressive political sectors opposed to the regime.

Meanwhile rifts began to appear in the ruling classes and [words indistinct] of the state concerning the methods and ways for the future development.

As a result of the complicated and hetrogeneous Afghan society and the confrontation of different class forces, the PDPA and other political groups and parties—which

took the names of their concepts, Mosawat, Showla-ye Jawed, Afghan Mellat, and other sociopolitical organizations and groups—emerged on the political scene of our country.

Each of them took a particular position regarding the ruling regime and made proposals in line with their social platforms for the solution of difficult problems facing Afghan society.

The PDPA was established on 1 January 1965 and led the progressive forces of the country. It became the party of theory and practice and the party equipped with the theory of social development.

History has proved that the PDPA has had a profound effect on the political movement in our country. The party set out its particular path to establish a national democratic state, eliminate poverty and feudal backwardness, and promote social progress in its program documents.

From the outset, the party, in a revolutionary way, preferred peaceful methods of struggle, including parliamentarianism and restructuring society for the fulfillment of democratic tasks. So the PDPA grew from a small group to a party of 200,000 members.

The PDPA program for restructuring society in a revolutionary way received the support of the majority of progressive, patriotic, and democratic forces, which were struggling to defend interests of the oppressed masses.

This program was our banner during the 10 difficult years of struggle. The party taught struggle to the people of Afghanistan. They proposed the solidarity of all sound social forces in a national and democratic front as the only correct way to national salvation.

Afghanistan faced a deep sociopolitical crisis during the 1960's and 1970's. Poverty and unemployment increased in the country. Thousands of our people sought jobs outside our country's borders. The state sector was absolutely stagnant.

It was becoming clearer to the progressives that the policies of the government could not bring the country out of poverty and backwardness. Rights and freedoms laid down in the Constitution of 1964 were then denied.

But the condemnations and resentment of the downtrodden could not be silenced. Different extremist groups emerged on the national political scene. They advocated armed struggle against their opponents.

But all these groups targeted the PDPA, because at that time it had become a famous united social force.

The republican regime which came into existence as a result of a coup d'etat against the monarchy tried to enhance eocnomic growth. However, that government failed to set tasks for itself to democratize society and make the necessary social changes.

This regime, which was the representative of the bureaucratic and upper classes and was under the influence of the right-wing reactionaries, lost its basis in Afghan society and moved towards inevitable defeat.

Meanwhile the right-wing extremist opposition had expanded its armed struggle against the progressive groups. This increasing internal crisis shortened the life of the regime.

Demonstrations by the intellectuals and strikes by workers—many of whom are here in this hall now—were vivid evidence of the increasing solidarity of the national and democratic forces.

The PDPA leadership began to be persecuted and threatened and political assassinations were carried out. Bloody attacks were committed on a large number of progressive figures and left-wing opposition leaders.

The most basic bourgeois-democratic freedoms were not included in the Constitution of 1978, and it did not meet the democratic demands of the people. That constitution was not for the people. It was to deceive the people.

Political supression and terror and the bleak and sorrowful situation of the people forced members of the PDPA and other patriots to resort to armed struggle to bring about democratic forms of administration.

In this difficult and conflicting situation the PDPA Central Committee declared its readiness to topple the government. This was the only possible decision given the lack of democratic freedoms and the regime's increasing oppression.

The general aims of the democratic revolution have solid relations with the fulfillment of the internationalist tasks: namely, the defense of the national interests of Afghanistan as an independent and neutral state and the defense of its national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence.

Because of the deep socioeconomic and political crisis that engulfed the country, it was necessary to change the political superstructure, and this superstructure had to conform with the economic infrastructure in form and content.

The historic moment arrived. The armed uprising, which began on 27 April 1978, ended in less than 24 hours in total success. We cordially thank the heroic officers, soldiers, and intellectuals who bravely rose to support the revolution and directed their tanks and airplanes to

defend us and make the uprising a success. Thousands of others along with them became the creators of the revolution and the real creators of history.

The armed uprising in Kabul and the start of the national democratic revolution and the formation of the Revolutionary Council, the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, and the new government, was warmly supported by the people.

Opportunities for change were created across ancient Afghanistan. Jubilation took over the country. New forces arose and participated in the revolutionary process.

People began looking forward to the future and placed their hopes on the glorious April Revolution and social justice in society and the building of a good life.

The revolution fulfilled the toiling Afghan people's hopes for success and closed down old social institutions. The revolution gave the people the opportunity to get rid of backwardness, poverty, and injustice, and they were able to determine the future course of their progress.

The first 10 years of the revolution became the start of a new life for millions of Afghans. People's sociopolitical activities developed, economy and literacy were enhanced, and vocational knowledge was expanded.

The revolution drove Afghanistan out of imperialist influences with the heritage of the noble national and liberating struggles and ensured its independence in international issues.

But the international enemies of the revolution and extremist reactionaries could not reconcile themselves to losing their position in the heart of Asia.

They immediately imposed an undeclared war on the people of Afghanistan and transformed our country into a killing field of international disputes. This posed a great danger to world peace and security.

The fire of the undeclared war has consumed enormous amounts of material resources and the hearts of many youths, widows, and orphans in the country. Damage worth 60 billion afghanis has been inflicted on our country.

Hundreds of thousand of martyrs, maimed people, widows, orphans, and milions of refugees are the result of the tiring, difficult war imposed on our country!

An all-round analysis of the situation created and a study of the past make us believe that neither the destructive inheritance of past regimes, nor the mistakes of the first years of the revolution, nor our peculiar national structure made our country the scene of bloody clashes.

The most important and, if I may say so, the sole reason the April Revolution was faced with problems was the interference of imperialist and extremist reactionaries, coupled with ill-will and attempts to smother the revolution so that the Afghan people would not occupy a meritorious place alongside other free people of the world.

Imperialist circles have spent billions of dollars, pounds, marks, and franks to stoke the fire of military conflicts. They insult people through their deception and by equipping mercenaries with the most modern arms.

They even descend to the pits of lies and swindling. They kill Afghans at the hands of Afghans, destroy our national economy, and turn into rubble and ashes that which was built with the calloused hands of their fathers and brothers.

The true sons and real patriots of Afghanistan bravely and with profound belief in the vivid ideals of the April Revolution, which conforms with our national interests, fought against our internal and external enemies' gross interferences.

In that very difficult situation, when the independence of Afghanistan and its territorial integrity were critically at risk, Afghanistan approached the Soviet Union for its internationalist aid.

As a result, the internal and external enemies of the April Revolution failed to block the efforts of the Afghlan people to achieve freedom, happiness, a prosperous life, and peace.

They could not stop the process of progressive changes in Afghanistan. They failed to change Afghanistan into a springboard of aggression against the Soviet Union.

They were not able to change the fundamental principles of our foreign policy, i.e., our neutrality and nonalignment, or to isolate Afghanistan in the international arena.

Despite all these problems, the PDPA and the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, notwithstanding the difficult conditions of the war, have achieved numerous successes in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres.

On this day of memories we talk about the achievements of the war-weary people. We talk about those who have suffered, but have scored successes and carried out much work.

By removing what stands in the way of social justice, the revolutionary Afghan democracy has founded a state reflecting the democratic efforts of all sections and groups of society.

The fundamental sectors of the political leadership are in the hands of revolutionary forces, with whose help direction is being given to social life and problems are being solved.

The Afghan Constitution, adopted in 1987, is the result of the struggle of many generations and the outcome of our patriots' struggle for political freedoms. The interests of all strata, nationalities, and different groups of society are taken into account without discrimination, in this historic document.

From the point of view of democracy, no Islamic country's constitution can match ours. This constitution includes a progressive domestic and foreign policy, equal rights for all political parties, broad participation by the people in imposing state sovereignty and a guarantee of ownership in all forms. State security has now been maintained in all the cities and in most of the villages.

In all provincial capitals, in 295 districts and subdistricts, and in 9,800 villages democratic elections to local and national administrations have been successfully completed.

The elections to the Wolasi Jirgah [People's Assembly] which finished 2 weeks ago is a living example of the depth of the democratization of the Republic of Afghanistan's political system.

One and a half million people voted, not only for their candidates, but in resolute support of the national reconciliation policy, the new Constitution, the multiparty system, and the principles of coalition.

I say clearly that no government of Afghanistan has ever been supported so strongly by the people and has never obtained such a vote of people's confidence.

The formation and activities of political parties in the Afghan political system is the principal result of the revolution. Our patriots struggled for a very long time just to make this possible.

The new Constitution of Afghanistan stipulates the multiparty system of democracy as the most correct reflection of the historic experience of our revolution and the real status of the political forces in Afghanistan.

Now, besides the PDPA, the Revolutionary Toilers Organization, the Toilers Organization of Afghanistan, and peasants and Islamic parties also participate in social life.

This makes it possible for the newly established social forces to strengthen and stabilize the political system in the interests of the people.

The revolution attracted many ordinary Afghans who had been deprived of very basic political and social rights to social activities. Only after the April Revolution was it possible for them to establish trade unions and other organizations.

We are glad that the youth, women's, and trade union organizations are expanding their ranks and raising the levels of their knowledge.

The credibility of the Council of Ulema and Clergy, the Tribal Affairs Council, the Council of Nomads, the Council of the Hazara Nationality, the union of creative intellectuals, the peace-loving movement and the societies of friendship with foreign countries is growing.

Today the social and political voice of the country, united in the National Front, is raised in the cause of defending peace. But the sociopolitical ogranizations have not yet been utilized satisfactorily.

We hope they are attracted to the process of social administration, particularly in the provinces, districts, and villages.

The apparatus of our state has helped in the democratization process and from the bottom has conducted an untiring struggle against bureaucratism, obstinacy, and embezzlement in the institutions of the Republic.

The Army of Afghanistan—the protector of the national sovereignty, unity, and independence of the country—was established during the years of difficult tests and strengthened in its struggle in the people's interest.

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan have incorporated the best and the most advanced people of the society. Sixty percent of the Armed Forces consist of PDPA members.

The Armed Forces are equipped with the most modern arms and enjoy the great experience and expertise of highly skilled cadres, including commanders, noncommissioned officers and soldiers.

People's officers have been trained in line with the tradition of their great forefathers and the thoughts of the April Revolution and with patriotism and internationalism during the years of revolution.

The names of the Afghan and Soviet heroes who have given their lives in the struggle against enemies of the country will be written in gold. The memories of these defenders will be eternally in the hearts of Afghans.

Today heroes of the Republic of Afghanistan are sitting with us in this hall. They have defended millions of our people and done creative work against irreconcilable enemies.

We are proud of the heroes of the difficult war of revolution! Pride to the brave defenders of the achievements of the April Revolution!

Dear comrades, the most important front in the people's struggle for social progress is the economic front. Despite the great damage inflicted by the undeclared war, the party and government have been able to ensure socio-economic progress in the country.

And in all fields of material production the prerevolution level has been achieved and bettered. The sources of our success lie in an improvement in the economic and state planning policy, the conscience of the masses, activating private enterprises and fraternal aid from the USSR and other socialist countries.

Gross domestic production last year was 9 percent more than in 1978. Among these figures, agriculture and husbandry was 9 percent more and industrial production was 15 percent more than in 1978; and commercial turnover has increased more than 1 and a 1/2 times.

Behind this data lies the qualitative change in the economic life of the country in the form of developing roles for private producers, which shows the state's attention to the needs of the private sector and the social and economic basis of the country.

Farmers, workers, enterpreneurs, artisans, and businessmen are the basic producers of our achievements in economic field. Because of their selfless work, the revolutionary sovereignty could raise the peoples' living standards.

The salaries of workers, state officials, military officers and soldiers, and students' pocket money have been increased. Pensions have been improved. Profound changes have appeared in public health during the years since the revolution. A totally new state medical service system, free and available to all, has been set up.

The revolution is conducting a general offensive against illiteracy, the eternal friend of backwardness and injustice. More than 3.5 million people have attended literacy classes. The number of school children has increased to 900,000. Middle and higher education is progressing rapidly.

Books, magazines, radio, and television have become a reliable resource of people's lives. More than 100 book titles with a circulation of more than 1 million copies are being published.

In comparison we can say that over the 50 years before the revolution only 185 books were published, with a very small circulation.

Implementing profound social changes is impossible without the rapid development of science and culture. We must, in a short period of time, traverse the road which took others centuries.

The Academy of Sciences has been created and is developing. The role of creative scholars and intellectuals is being enhanced. Afghan scientists and experts have acquired universal scientific and technical skills and are utilizing them, not only in the national economy and culture, and not only on earth, but also in outer space.

Regrettably, the stormy winds of the difficult years of the war have scattered a sector of our intellectuals all over the world. However, we hope that the true patriots of Afghanistan will soon leave for the homeland.

We invite them to the homeland to make peaceful efforts for the well-being of the people.

Representatives of Afghan society's progressive circles have always reagrded the Islamic religion as an integral part of our national culture. Islam was seen as a fundamental way of mobilizing the masses to solve great social tasks.

The nonappreciation of the role of the Muslim clergymen during the first years of the revolution has been resolutely corrected. Attention has been paid to mullahs and the ulema, to repairing and constructing mosques, as well as printing the Holy Koran and Hadith.

The government has spent 2 billion afghanis in sending pilgrims to the Holy Ka'bah and Karbala' and on other such things which are in accordance with the will of God.

The sum spent, which was twice as much as that spent during the 50 years of the monarchy, was for the sacred feelings of the Muslims, for the religion of Islam, and for the various sects, which are the vivid examples of our attention and respect vis-a-vis the traditions of all the country's nationalities and tribes.

During the course of the revolution the foundation was laid for equal political rights for all nationalities and tribes, which prepares the groundwork for the material and spiritual development of all people.

For the first time in the history of Afghanistan politically responsible steps have been taken to solve the national issue on the basis of democracy, humanism, and mutual cooperation and understanding.

The principles of friendly relations with all nonaligned countries and the defense of peace and security in the region and all of Asia are the foundation of the foreign policy of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Despite the destabilizing actions of the hostile countries, Afghanistan has preserved diplomatic relations with 82 countries. At present, the people of Afghanistan themselves are an active and dynamic factor in foreign policy.

Prior to the revolution, foreign contacts were limited to the government's diplomatic relations with other countries. However, now broad international contacts by the PDPA, social organizations, and trade unions constitute the main part of the international policy of Afghanistan.

Dear friends, during the past 9 years we have achieved numerous successes. Our achievements entitle us to be proud of our revolution and look forward to the future with optimism.

However we would be fooling ourselves if we looked only at our past successes. A glance at the past will enable us to say that during the past 10 years we could have achieved many other things in all directions.

We have still not succeeded in sufficiently utilizing the creative potential of the April Revolution. A section of the envisaged social and economic reforms have not been implemented.

State sovereignty, which is responsible for reflecting people's interests, has not yet been established in all the country's territory. Therefore, a critical assessment of our work and experience and exposing our mistakes and the reasons behind them will make it possible to learn from the past, thus helping our present and future.

What are these great lessons?

It is now clear that the first step of the national democratic revolution in achieving revolutionary transformations, like other steps for their expansion and consolidation to take over power, was not easily achieved.

The party and government failed fully to take into consideration the specific conditions of the country and direct the masses' enthusiasm aroused by the April armed uprising in a proper direction.

This state of affairs resulted in haste in assessing our achievements, serious mistakes in political theory and practice, the superficial implementation of reforms, and a failure to take into account the attitude of the masses. As a result, They they misunderstood the revolution.

The PDPA failed fully to utilize the possibilities brought about by the victorious April Revolution and failed to expand the social base of the revolution. Party members did not go to the villages. Instead, they stayed in the cities and provincial, district, and subdistrict centers.

The party and state apparatus failed to attract certain social strata and nationalities and tribes. They failed to limit the gap between words and deeds and help the prestige and credibility of the new sovereignty.

The political vanguard of the revolution—the PDPA—was growing very slowly and in a contradictory manner. The process of unity and solidarity inside the party and the manner of work with the masses were always lagging behind the demands of the situation and the pace of the political struggle imposed by the internal and international reaction.

Hostile factions, groupings, political and theoretical immaturity, selfishness, and the vanity of some party members who happened to be in the high echelons of the party brought about grave consequences which are very difficult to remove.

This fact decreased the party's credibility in the eyes of the masses. Apoliticism, a lack of revolutionary dynamism, and oportunism grew in the party ranks. Idle people, who encouraged an unprincipled wait and see attitude, infiltrated the leading organs of the party.

Today, the reasons for contradictions inside the party are well known and almost all party members are aware of them. These reasons are the national and social hetrogeneity of the PDPA, members' lack of political common sense and [words indistinct] of the petite bourgeoisie, which were discussed at the party's nationwide conference.

All party members took an oath and signed a resolution on strengthening the PDPA's unity. This took place at a time when the party was spending a lot of time removing factional selfishness.

A lot of energy was spent not on creative party activities and in the name of the people, but on cliques, factionalism, and deviations. Under the present conditions, the party should cherish unity as the apple of its eye.

We were incorrect and unrelentless in our attempts to solve problems and form a sound and effective administration. We always underestimated the danger of bureaucracy in the revolutionary cadres who were attracted to the government administration.

The inherited forms of laziness, conservatism, and corruption, and the irresponsibility of officials in charge who favored weak cronies—all these things were separating the government and people and the good intentions of the revolution and bad practical implementation of it.

How much energy and how many resources were wasted? How many good plans and essential tasks were not implemented because we were trying to carried out new duties through the old administrative apparatus with old and bureaucratic methods?

Mistakes took place which the party, the people, and the revolution could not afford. The enemies of the April Revolution immediately made use of these mistakes for their subversive activities.

The major lesson hidden in this is that we should always listen to the people. We should carefully consider their wishes and demands and we should not try to cheat them with long fraudulent words and deceptive statements and force plans and programs on them.

The main lesson lies in the fact that when the theory of political struggle had brought our country to the threshold of revolution at that time, our knowledge of our society was poor.

Instead of comprehensively considering the historic characteristics of Afghanistan and instead of searching for national forms when applying the general laws of the evolution of the revolutionary process, we were always utilizing the experience of other countries. We were mechanically applying progressive revolutionary models.

The experience of the revolution teaches us that complex solutions of sociopolitical, economic and ideological issues are essential conditions for success. This fact is a key for the growth of the social bases of the national and democratic revolution and for its final victory.

The biggest lesson of our revolution and the difficult years of war is that the fundamental creative objectives of the revolution in Afghanistan have not and cannot be implemented by military means.

The lessons of the revolution, a correct assessment of the situation around Afghanistan, and the lessons of all international revolutionary movements have led the PDPA to the conclusion that the only way to realize the ideals of the April Revolution is to end fratricide and restore a durable national peace.

Dear comrades, the national reconciliation policy the DRA announced in the 9th year of the revolution and national sovereignty were not created in offices or the halls of meetings.

This policy came into being in the fields, the streets of the city, villages, and tents, as a result of experience. The people of Afghanistan have made their historic choice, and here the people of Afghanistan have shown their belief in the vital need for national reconciliation and the lack of any rational alternative.

This new policy stemmed from the wise thoughts and peaceful efforts of responsible elders and esteemed clergymen and ulema, and from a democratic assessment of the issues of war and peace at the tribal assemblies and long debates about the future of the refugee camps.

The policy of national reconciliation arose from the ashes of war, from the tears of widows and Afghan mothers. This policy is derived from the facts of the present situation in the country, and it responds to the needs of the people while resting on a solid theoritical pillar.

The foundation for the national reconciliation policy—revolutionary lessons on compromises and political concessions and the experience for its creative application—was laid by the fraternal revolutionary parties.

The theory of national reconciliation is in harmony with the philosophy of the new political thinking which attaches the highest value to the life of mankind and peace on our planet.

The national reconciliation policy is based on the humanitarian principles of the sacred religion of Islam, the traditions of our people, and the action program of the PDPA.

National reconciliation is inseparably linked with the practical circumstances of the growth of the revolutionary process in the country. Its plan and design are derived from objective needs, removing differences between theory and and revolutionary practice, realizing progressive transformations, disallowing retraction from the growth of the democratic process, keeping it free of fabrications and complications, and creating feasible conditions for the broad participation of the masses in the reconstruction of society.

Life has proven that national reconciliation, in the particular circumstances of Afganistan, means a special form of sociopolitical compromise where the duties of the restoration of the democratic structure of national peace and socioeconomic growth become one.

The plan and design of the national reconciliation policy and its implementation belong to the PDPA. The party has been transformed into the initiator, organizer, and executor of the life of this new policy, and it approved this policy in its glorious March sessions and its party conference.

Political reason, national courage, and perception of responsibility for the destiny of the people required that we accomplish the most difficult tasks in Afghan society, from war to peace to democracy and creativity, toward the main objectives of the revolution. The PDPA, as a fighting party, has been transformed into a nationwide party of peace.

The PDPA should remove many serious obstacles that stem from any old, demagogical, and bookish understanding about the paths and revolutionary objectives and commence, with profound reconstruction, all party and government tasks.

The 18th Plenum of the PDPA Central Committee and subsequent events have convincingly revealed that without this reconstruction the theory of national reconciliation cannot grasp practical political force and cannot be transformed into a state policy.

National reconciliation opened society to a genuine path allowing for the dispatch of broad social reserves in the struggle for the national, democratic, and revolutionary objectives.

This policy provided the possibility of reducing and finally [word indistinct] methods of armed struggle when solving the issues of the country's growth. It brings competition in a peaceful manner among the various forces, including parliamentary and political forms of struggle.

The main purpose of national reconciliation is hidden in the fact that every condition should be provided for the return of our compatriots who are abroad as hostages in the hands of reactionary forces in the region.

Under present national and international circumstances, we alone cannot solve the problems of national reconciliation. From this comes the need for political pluralism based on multiparty principles.

Here we see the main route for reconciliation of the various political forces, including the opposition, on the basis of a single platform to achieve the country's growth.

The multiparty system in a coalition society and well-rounded economy and its organic conformity with powerful central sovereignty and forms of people's self-administration is our perception of the social and government structure of contemporary Afghanistan.

An invitation to the restoration of national peace and accord which was echoed at the Jadi [month beginning 22 Nov] plenum motivated the masses and awakened the broad peace-seeking movement.

All these measures are included in the national reconciliation policy: a unilateral cease-fire; reconciliation with the armed opposition; amnesty for prisoners; promulgation of new laws that secure the legal foundations for reconciliation; the formation of open political parties; growth of administrative forms at the village, district, and provincial levels; approval of the Constitution; the broadening of cooperation with the private sector; and the revision of the principles of land and water reform.

This has largely increased the number of our compatriots returning to their homeland and prepared the basis for the success of the Geneva talks on the solution to the situation surrounding Afghanistan. These tasks were carried out within 483 days of realizing this destiny-making policy.

Popular support for this policy revealed its vitality when, before our eyes, it was transformed from theory into action and from opinion into objective reality. The broad masses more actively take part in solving social problems.

The people's views concerning the draft of the country's socioeconomic development plan and the Afghan Constitution, their general interest in the Geneva talks, and their active participation in the parliamentary elections are all testimony to this fact.

We consult people more and have become closer them. We better perceive people's needs and take social views and the national psychology more into consideration.

This new policy helped to enhance the credibility of the PDPA and government leadership among the masses, and among various political forces and social strata. Active measures have been taken by the party, including the voluntary dispensation of the power monopoly, which showed the courage of the PDPA, its formidable endeavor for peace, and its preparedness for concessions and compromises for national interests.

In addition to these, the party, by making fundamental changes to the documents on its agenda and its practical activities, has consolidated its status in society as the most influencial political force, and has secured strategic initiatives and the ability to decisively influence the progress of the domestic situation and the situation around Afghanistan.

The important gain of the progressive forces of national reconciliation is the creation of the leftist democratic parties block in which the Revolutionary Toilers Organization and the Toilers Organization of Afghanistan parties joined with the PDPA.

New parties such as the Islamic Party of Afghanistan and the Peasants Justice Party of Afghanistan were being formed. With each passing day the status of the National Front was consolidated.

These are a genuine demonstration of the democratic nature of the April Revolution and the realization of the multiparty system.

In accepting political flexibility, we tried several times to begin a constructive dialogue with the leaders of the irreconcilable opposition. We proposed that they should open political centers in Kabul, take part in parliamentary elections, and help form a coalition government providing, of course, that they refrain from armed struggle.

But the opposite side, in reply to our initiatives, continues to propose unacceptable demands. They are trying to disrupt the national reconciliation process and prolong the fratricidal war.

The question then arises: Where will the concessions and compromises end?

We have made many concessions in the course of the national reconciliation policy but we will never ever concede our people's democratic rights and Afghanistan's position as a sovereign, independent, and nonaligned state.

With decisiveness we announce that we will never trade on the principles and national interests of the country.

National reconciliation in Afghanistan has received the support of progressive and democratic forces throughout the world. The phenomenon of national reconciliation itself entered the political dictionary.

The success of national reconciliation, brought about largely by our people and the April Revolution, will become an example of the victory of wisdom in solving other regional disputes. Every Afghan has the right to be proud of this.

With the passing of each day the process of peace gains strength and yields new results. The obvious proof of this is the formation of the National Assembly through free and democratic elections. [Number indistinct] people took part in the elections.

It was the first time in the country's history that military personnel have taken part in the elections. The social composition of the elected representatives and senators is a manifestation of the coalition form as the highest organ of the state power: 65.8 percent intellectuals; 8.5 percent workers, peasants, and artisans; 2.7 percent private investors and traders; 10.4 percent responsible tribal figures; and 4.7 percent nomads.

Also, the national composition of the parliament is in complete accord with the proportions of the country's population: Pashtuns, 48.7 percent; Tajiks, 30.2 percent; Hazara, 6.4 percent; Uzbek, 9.4 percent; Turkmen, 2.7 percent; Baluchi, 1 percent; and other nationalities, 1.6 percent.

The confirmed pluralism of our society shows that among the members of parliament, [number indistinct] percent are nonparty members; 26.6 percent are members of the PDPA; [number indistinct] are delegates of the National Front; 3 percent are members of the Revolutionary Organization of Toilers of Afghanistan; and 3 percent are delegates of the Islamic Party of the People of Afghanistan and the Peasants Justice Party.

It is worth mentioning that delegates of regions under the control of the opposition also exist. The democratic parliamentary election in place of the state provisional revolutionary council is a great step toward the victory of the April Revolution.

This great event, along with the promulgation of the Constitution and the election of the president in the Grand Assembly of 1986, has special political importance for the revolution and the consolidation of the bases of sovereignty and administration as an expression of the opinion of the majority of people. It is in complete accord with their interests.

Esteemed guests, dear friends, in the course of the achievement of national reconciliation in our country, great measures have been taken. We, however, should not repeat our past mistakes and depict reality as we would wish to see it. The turning point in the internal political struggle has not yet taken place.

The party and state leadership will not be indifferent to the difficulties facing us and to the opposition forces which continue to confront us. A difficult phase is appearing in the life of Afghanistan and the destiny of national reconciliation.

This phase is full of great political events, among which the realization of the Geneva accords will occupy a special place. The accords reached in Geneva are the main result of the consistent struggle of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union to stop external interference in the internal affairs of our country and grant Afghans the right to choose the political system of their liking.

This is indicative of the victory of political realism and the new political thinking in the approaching international situation and is the result of national reconciliation. It is also a good example of how to prevent regional disputes.

The Afghan leadership will carry out its pledges under the Geneva accords in the best manner and is demanding the same from the other countries concerneed in this issue.

The withdrawal of the internationalist troops of the Soviet Union to their country is counted as an important event this year. They have carried out their duty with sincerity and have helped the people of Afghanistan to maintain their independence and state sovereignty.

It was due to them that a military balance was established between the forces of the Republic of Afghanistan and the aggressors, and that the Army, the Sarandoy, and security organs were strengthened and are defending the national reconciliation policy.

The experiences of joint Afghan-Soviet military operations during the hard years enjoy great importance. The people of the Soviet Union have accomplished a great task in creating a modern Afghan army, an army which is capable of independently defending the borders of the country.

The Soviet troops have helped our people by supplying primary goods and health services and by developing the economy and culture.

In connection with the return of the Soviet troops, our main policy is to strengthen the ranks of the Armed Forces further to enable them to defend the national reconciliation policy.

The present political-military balance should not be lost because this would prove to be a misfortune for our people, and Afghanistan's international pledges concerning the Geneva accords would be lost.

The future consolidation of state power and the national political system on the whole, on the basis of a coalition and multiparty system, should be a key in developing the internal political situation in the country.

State sovereignty and interparty alliances are realistically being transformed into a nucleus of the new national political system. A search for acceptable reconciliation with the opposition, including the formation of a new state, will continue. Finally, the state administration's work apparatus should be improved and the responsibility of officials should be enhanced.

Many tasks face us in receiving our compatriots returning from Pakistan and other countries. To further facilitate the return of Afghan people from abroad the republican state is ready to study the possibility of setting up nonmilitary zones in the areas and provinces bordering Pakistan, provided the opposite side does not resort to arms.

We hope the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, like us, will also create nonmilitary zones. I believe this would enhance the level of mutual confidence.

In the economy, the creation of suitable conditions for the consolidation of the national reconciliation policy will be brought about. In connection with this matter it is necessary to strengthen the future role of the national economy in the growth of production forces and their possibilities in cooperation and joint efforts with the state sector, including within the framework of mixed companies and establishments.

In the area of agriculture, the search for effective forms of organization for production, recognizing the decisive importance of the role of producers, will be encouraged.

Various forms of cooperatives and the improvement of living conditions of all strata of peasants and the consolidation of their link with the cities will continue. We still pay little attention to artisans' production. We must improve this.

In the social policy sphere, the realization of the broad rights and freedoms announced in the Constitution is of primary importance. At present the very important questions are how to maintain the realization of citizens' rights to employment, which is enshrined in the Constitution, and how to considerably increase citizens' businesses in various national fields.

The undeclared war has been very expensive. We must eliminate the consequences of war and destruction to engage in a complete solution for social and cultural enhancement.

In the foreign policy sphere, the normalization of relations with Pakistan and the search for ways to normalize the situation on our borders with Iran are at the top of our agenda. We are interested in developing our relations with the PRC and broadening our relations with Islamic countries.

The most important question before us is the country's economic development. This is not possible without foreign assistance. In this regard we count on UN support. We want to expand and improve relations with some developed capitalist countries.

Without a doubt the major role in consolidating international efforts in Afghanistan will be played by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

The April Revolution, from the very beginning, achieved, and is achieving, broad international support. It has always inspired Afghan patriots toward the decisive struggle to defend the gains of the revolution and has strengthened in their hearts their confidence in the path they have chosen.

I am very pleased, on behalf of the party and state leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan and on behalf of the people of Afghanistan, to welcome the delegations of friendly countries who arrived in our country to take part in the 10th anniversary celebration of the April Revolution.

Dear Soviet friends, welcoming you, I would like to extend heartfelt gratitude, through you, to the heroic Soviet people for your all-round internationalist help to Afghanistan in defending its freedom, independence, and territorial integrity. The great epics by Soviet troops will live in the memories of present and future generations of Afghan people.

We are heartily thankful to the socialist delegations present in this hall—the CSSR, the GDR, the PRK, the People's Republic of Hungary, [words indistinct]—for the assistance and selfless support we have always received from your countries. The people of Afghanistan will forever preserve our friendship.

Brothers, thank you for your help, friendship, and solidarity.

The people of Afghanistan have special interest ins and friendship with the beautiful, great country of India and its noble people, with whom we are linked by 1,000 years of history.

We are pleased to see the delegation from friendly India among our guests, and we welcome it. Our people highly appraise the valuable role of India and her wise leadership in establishing peace and national accord in Afghanistan and in the cause of consolidating peace and stability for everyone on the planet earth.

We welcome the delegations of [words indistinct] and express heartfelt thanks to your countries and peoples for their undeviating solidarity with the struggle of the Afghan people for peace, freedom, and justice.

In connection with the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution, congratulatory messages have arrived from countries and international and national organizations. Geographical expansion belongs to our revolution. [sentence as received]

Your solidarity with the heroic struggle of the Afghan people inspires us further in our efforts to achieve peace in our ancient land, Afghanistan, and to build a just and blossoming society.

Allow me to express our heartfelt thanks to all our foreign friends who sent congratulatory messages on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution.

Dear friends, in addressing these and other questions, the Afghan leadership counts on all social and political forces and all people. The expansion of the potential for coalition state power and the success of the national reconciliation policy are counted as the key issues concerning the success of the April Revolution.

Revolution cannot stand still. We are traveling a path which no one else has traveled. We are striving toward a star that was seen in the skies of the history of Afghanistan in April 1978.

This is a star of freedom and popular prosperity of a strong and blossoming Afghanistan, the ideal of which was in the minds of the generations of true patriots and the thousands of courageous strugglers against oppression and national and moral tyranny. United for this great aim, and in reconstructing our thoughts and actions, we will be victorious.

We have achieved new victories in our revolution and will achieve more!

Long live our sovereign, independent, and nonaligned country!

Long live the heroic Afghan people!

Long live the national democratic April Revolution!

Long live revolutionary solidarity!

National reconciliation will be victorious!

BAKHTAR Reports Kabul Car Bomb, Casualties

LD280620 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0509 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 27, BAKHTAR—An explosion organised by extremist criminals in one of the vehicles at a parking area at Pamir cinema, a crowded area in the centre of Kabul City, has killed six persons, two women and four men, and injured forty nine including school children and women. This horrible crime also inflicted financial dmaage to a number of our countrymen.

The injured were quickly transfered to hospital and most of them have received minor injuries. The extremist elements are perpetrating such anti-Islamic and treacherous acts at a time when our countrymen are observing to fast and looking forward to securing peace in the country.

However, the extremist groups which are benefiting from war and bloodshed even did not avoid committing such a savage act during the fasting month and thus added to their earlier ignominy.

'Extremists' Launch Mortar Attacks in Faryab

LD271657 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] While the peace-loving people of Faryab Province are marking the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution, extremist elements—these enemies of peace—perpetrated another unforgivable action and martyred or injured a number of our innocent compatriots.

A BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that extremist elements yesterday launched mortars and surface-to-surface missiles against the city of Meymaneh and Pashtun Kowt district residential areas, as a result of which three of our compatriots, including two children, were martyred. Another six were injured. The injured were taken to the hospital, where their condition is improving.

Decree on Pardons Issued on 10th Anniversary

LD262215 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Apr 88

[Text] Here is a decree on rescinding and reducing prisoners' sentences on the occasion of 10th anniversary of the April Revolution:

In accordance with the humane policy of national reconciliation and on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution, the sentences of the following prisoners will be rescinded and reduced in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 8 of Article 75 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan:

Article 1

The sentences of those prisoners who are convicted criminals and who have been sentenced by the final decisions of the court rendered before 26 April 1988 will be remitted in the following manner:

1. The remaining terms of imprisonment of those prisoners sentenced up to 10 years irrespective of the period already spent in prison.

2. All female prisoners without consideration of the period of the sentence and the period already spent in prison.

3. Those male prisoners over 55 years old irrespective of the period of the sentence and the period already spent in prison.

4. Minors and adolescents irrespective of the period already spent in prison.

5. Those convicts with incurable diseases irrespective of the period of the sentence and the period already spent in prison.

Article 2

Those convicts sentenced by the courts to death but upon whom the court decision has not been implemented as of 26 April 1988, will have their sentences commuted to 20 years imprisonment.

Article 3

Those convicts sentenced to more than 10 years in prison will have their sentences reduced by half.

Article 4

The implementation of prison sentences on armed forces personnel and those eligible for military service, will be suspended without consideration of the period of the sentence and the period already spent in prison in accordance with Article 8 of the Law on Military Offenses.

Article 5

Those prisoners released under the provisions for remittance and reduction stipulated in Article 1, paragraph 1, and Article 3 of this decree should be dispatched to the ranks of the armed forces if they are eligible.

Article 6

If those persons to whom Articles 1 to 5 are relevant have been assessed a fine or indemnity payment in addition to a term of imprisonment, they must pay such fines or make such payments.

If released prisoners cannot make the payment in a lump sum, they must pay monthly installments equal to 20 percent of their income or wages. The amount should be paid in full within a period of 7 years.

Article 7

If those who have been sentenced in absentia voluntarily return to the homeland within 3 months, their sentences will be remitted. However, if the court decision includes an indemnity payment, they are bound to make the payment in accordance with Article 6 of this decree.

Articel 8

Prisoners who are citizens of other countries are to be pardoned if they have completed one-third of their sentence.

Article 9

The provisions of this decree do not apply to the following prisoners:

1. Those sentenced for treason against the homeland as stipulated in Articles 105 and 115 of the regulations of the Law of Military Offenses and Article 17, paragraph 1, clause 1, of the Law on Military Offenses.

2. Those who committed the crimes stipulated in Article 8, paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 of the Law on Crimes and Punishment Against War Prepardeness and Article 17, paragraph 1, clauses 2, 3, and 4 of the Law on Military Offenses, and Articles 205 and 206, and Article 207, paragraph 1, of the Penal Code.

3. The perpetrators of intentional murder and assassination and sentenced in accordance with Article 395, Article 396, paragraphs 1 and 2, and Article 175 of the Penal Code.

4. Those sentenced for spying in accordance with Articles 176 and 179 of the penal code or Article 8, paragraph 5, of the Law on Crimes and Punishment Against War Preparedness; and Article 17, paragraph 5 of the Law on Military offenses.

5. Perpetrators of the crimes of explosion and subversion who were sentenced in accordance with Articles 217, 360, 363, and 369 of the Penal Code.

6. Perpetrators of the crimes of robbery and armed theft, and kidnapping who were sentenced in accordance with Articles 447, 449, 456, and 457, and Article 455, Paragraph 4, of Article 515 and Article 213, Paragraph 1, of the Penal Code.

7. Those committed the crimes of embezzlment, bribery, and contraband who have been sentenced to more than 2 years in prison.

8. The prepetrators of crimes against internal and external security who have been sentenced in accordance with Article 1, Paragraph 1,; Article 2; Article 3, paragraph 1; Article 4, Paragraph 1; Article 5; Article 6, Paragraph 2; Article 7, Paragraphs 2 and 3; Articles 12, 15, and 16 of the Law on Crimes Against Internal and External Security.

9. Repeat offenders.

Article 10

In all instances stipulated in Article 8 [as heard], if such offenders have been sentenced to up to 10 years in accordance with Articles 49, 50, 75, 76, 83, 84, 143, and 145 of the Penal Code, the provisions of this decree on the remittance and reduction of sentences are applicable to them.

Article 11

This decree comes into for forced on 26 April 1988 and will be effective for 3 months. It will also be published in the Official Gazette.

Article 12

Those prisoners who have already benefitted from Decree No 315 of 26 November 1987 are not eligible to benefit from this decree.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan

India

Pakistani Nuclear Weapons Program Confirmed

BK2804075288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Texo] The Rajya Sabha was informed today that India's apprehensions on Pakistan's nuclear weapon program have been confirmed by all available evidence. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, said in a written reply today that the government is aware of reports about Pakistan's efforts to procure disc magnets for use in its weapons-oriented nuclear program. Its clandestine procurement of nuclear technology, materials, and components from a number of countries are also in our knowledge.

Secretary-Level Talks With Pakistan on 14-15 May

BK2704162588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] The home secretary, Mr C.G. Somiah, will have talks with his Pakistani counterpart, the interior secretary, Mr S.K. Mahmood, on the 14th and the 15th of next month in New Delhi. According to official sources, the talks will be on terrorism, illegal border crossing, and related matters.

The Pakistani delegation is expected to arrive in the capital on the 13th.

'Terrorists' Gun Down Six in Punjab 25 Apr

BK260744 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 26 Apr 88

[Text] In Punjab, six persons, including two women, were shot dead in separate incidents of terrorist activity last night. Two men and a woman were gunned down in Gurdaspur District. In Ferozepore District, terrorists killed a couple and a man was shot dead in Bhatinda District.

Curfew in Amritsar Lifted

BK2704160988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] The curfew imposed in parts of Amritsar City this morning has been lifted. A major part of the walled city was placed under curfew as a precautionary measure in view of the bundh [strike] called by the Shiv Sena [Hindu Militant Party] in protest against the killing of one of their activists.

Eight persons have been killed by terrorists in the state since last night. Four persons were killed in separate incidents in Amritsar District, two in Gurdaspur District, and one each in Jullundhur and Kapurthala districts.

Iran

Musavi: Saudi Action Shows U.S. 'Sovereignty'

LD272157 Tehran IRNA in English 1835 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said Wednesday that the Saudi regime's rupture of diplomatic relations with Iran coinciding with Washington's recent aggression in the Persian Gulf, "shows America's sovereignty over the holy land of Hijaz [Saudi Arabia]."

"Now it is more obvious than ever for us why the U.S. and its Saudi servants fear hajj pilgrims' slogans," he said in an interview after a cabinet meeting. "They fear the slogans of 'Death to the U.S.' and 'Death to Israel'," he added.

The cabinet reviewed important internal and foreign developments in its today's session.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati briefed the cabinet on his recent visit to Damascus and results of his talks with Syrian officials.

The prime minister said the U.S.-subservient Saudi regime has said in its statement (on severance of relations with Iran) that the Islamic Republic wanted to

influence Saudi youth. "They are concerned over the impact of 'Death to the U.S.' and 'Death to Israel' slogans on their young generation," Musavi said.

The premier said the Hijaz regime and its allies who he said are against the Islamic Revolution, "are in fact exposing their American-inspired nature without even being aware of this."

He said this "clear demarcation" between genuine Islam and U.S.-inspired Islam will eventually be in the interest of Islamic nations and will leave its positive impact on Muslim youth.

Musavi said elsewhere in the interview that last year's Mecca massacre which coincided with extensive U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf, had been masterminded by the White House.

Saudi Arabia announced a unilateral break in relations with Iran on Tuesday.

Oil Official on Break

LD271530 Tehran IRNA in English 1410 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Vienna, April 27, IRNA—Iran's deputy oil minister Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili said here today that Saudi Arabia decided to break its relations with Iran under the direct pressure of the U.S.

Ardabili told IRNA in an interview that Washington thinks of taking advantage of the Saudi measure as a justification for its military build up in the Persian Gulf under the lame pretext of securing navigation.

The U.S. would also use the measure to convince its European allies to suspend withdrawal of their military forces from the Persian Gulf, he added.

Although Tehran-Riyadh relations were on the brink of collapse after the massacre of hajj pilgrims on 31 July last year, "Iran did not take the first step," said Ardabili. The Saudi regime would be responsible for the consequences of its act since it was this regime which severed ties with Iran, he warned.

The Iranian deputy minister said severing relations with Iran, concurrently with the start of the joint OPEC and non-OPEC talks here, reveals Saudi intentions to disturb any positive impacts of an oil price accord which is likely to be reached by the oil producers.

Interior Minister Discusses U.S. Gulf Interests

PM271535 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 19 Apr 88 p 2

[Interview with Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi by unidentified correspondent; date, place not given]

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi answered our first question on the reasons behind the U.S. attacks against Iran and the obvious coordination between the United States, Iraq, and Kuwait in order to put pressure on Iran.

He said: I think that during the first few years of the war the world believed that Iraq could stand alone, confront the forces of Islam, and manage the war.

But gradually the countries that were politically helping Iraq changed their minds and realized that Iraq could not manage the war all by itself. They realized that it had to get financial and military help as well, from all the regional countries and the United States.

It was within the past year, and following the Val-Fajr 8 and Karbala' 5 operations, that the world aggressors found out that, despite all the military and political help from all countries of the world, Iraq could not manage the war, because the forces of the Ba'th Party have lost their military sense as a result of the repeated defeats. So these powers decided to take control of the war themselves.

The superpowers of East and West are now acting together in a joint policy and conspiracy, and this is how they have entered the war. The Soviet Union provides the weapons and the United States manages the war, and in this way they act jointly against the Islamic Republic.

In other words, the Soviet Union's deadly weapons, including naval weapons, air weapons, and long-range missiles, are at the disposal of the war-mongering U.S. policies in the Persian Gulf. The United States has taken direct command of the Iraqi fronts against Iran.

The interior minister added: We have witnessed this command in the last few days. On U.S. orders, all the equipment and facilities of Bubiyan Island, south of Kuwait, were placed at the disposal of Iraqi and American Air Force and commando units.

These were also to be used by Iraqi and U.S. missile systems. On the other hand, all the other regional countries, including Jordan and Saudi Arabia, joined in, on U.S. orders; at the same time, the U.S. fleet started its attacks in a coordinated move and within a limited time frame.

We also received news that Iraq had gotten more long-range Soviet-made missiles—which indicates an international conspiracy of West and East and the entry into the war of the American puppet and mercenary regimes in the region.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi then answered our second question on how best to fight the plots hatched against the Islamic Republic and the revolution. He said:

I think the enemy has to understand that our people will stand until the last breath, the last house, and the last drop of blood. This is what our dear Imam has said—that the enemy thinks it can break our people's resolve by these futile acts and by psychological warfare—which is why this plot has been hatched.

If the United States once understands that the Iranian people will stand firm under any circumstances, it will definitely not be able to continue its present path. This understanding can come about by the continued and widespread deployment of our troops and volunteers and by holding war games in a show of strength.

Another factor in fighting against the enemy is our great experience throughout history. Our shorelines have seen heroic acts by the revolutionary people who live there against colonialists and strangers, British and Portuguese. So these brave shore people who have defended this land throughout history have to rediscover their roles.

One other matter has to be pursued. Our enemy has come thousands of miles across the sea to counter the revolution in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, and has officially announced that the American troops have come to fight the Iranian people and their revolution.

The Islamic revolution must now retaliate in kind, as soon as possible, against the United States. American interests must come under direct attack throughout the world, in European, Arab, and Middle Eastern countries as well as inside the United States itself, from the forces of the Islamic revolution and the elements of the Hezbollah. This way we will be able to confront imperialist moves and force the enemy to retreat.

The interior minister then discussed the mobilization of all forces against this joint plot and added: I believe that the time has come to place the country's entire machinery at the disposal of the war.

Our people, with the understanding they have of the enemy, both Iraqi and American, are willing to put up with the hardships of life and are willing to be put at the disposal of the war.

Of course, the government ministries and other offices have to change because of the war. For example, the Ministry of Heavy Industries can place all its factories at the disposal of the war with a few minor changes. Other ministries and government offices can place all their facilities at the disposal of the war.

The minister concluded: Our security forces are well-trained and could be placed under the command of the war offices. This is something that, God willing, we will do.

DPRK Official Criticizes U.S. Gulf Policy

LD271603 Tehran IRNA in English 0932 GMT 27 Apr 88

["DPRK Opts To Help Iran Cope With U.S. Threats"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA—Visiting Deputy External Trade Minister of Democratic People's Republic of Korea Yi Song-nok has strongly denounced U.S. attack on Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf and announced his country's inclination to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran in its struggle against the U.S.

In a meeting with Iran's Commerce Minister Mohammad Abedi-Ja'fari he also stressed that no peace is possible as long as U.S. imperialism dominates the world.

The DPRK official also condemned Iraqi regime's use of chemical weapons for its violation of international conventions.

Yi Song-nok also said that DPRK is ready to cooperate with Iran in agriculture, fisheries, serum industry, hydroelectric plants, ship and jetty building.

Women Hold Rally To Protest U.S. Aggression

LD251954 Tehran IRNA in English 1541 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Semnan, April 25, IRNA—Thousands of committed Muslim women staged a rally here Monday to voice their protest against last week's U.S. aggression on the Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf, and to announce their support for the Muslim combatants.

The marchers consisting of female basijis, university and high school students, teachers, government employees and other committed women shouted "War, war till victory", "Down with the U.S.", "Persian Gulf is Reagan's graveyard".

The demonstrators condemned the joint conspiracy of Kuwait, the U.S. and the Iraqi Ba'thist regime and said that it was doomed to defeat.

A seven-point statement was issued at the end of the rally which warned world arrogance that the war will not stop unless the blood of those martyred in the Persian Gulf is avenged.

The statement also cautioned the U.S. that the liberated women of Iran along with the Muslim combatants will powerfully fight world arrogance until the banner of Islam is hoisted all over the world and all objectives are attained.

Report on UN Chemical Weapons Investigation

LD271350 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Report on the results of the UN investigation of chemical weapons used in the Iran-Iraq war]

[Text] The UN fact-finding mission which visited Iran following the Iraqi regime's deployment of chemical weapons in the Halabjah tragedy released its report at the United Nations last night.

In this six-page report, which contains a preliminary report, six chapters, and three appendices, and which was released after a suspicious delay, the physician on the mission stresses that the delegation dispatched by the United Nations was imperfect and lacked an expert on chemical substances; and therefore, it was difficult to identify the composition of the chemical substances deployed.

Despite this defect, the report of the expert mission emphasized that the wounded examined in Iran showed signs of exposure to nerve gas and mustard gas.

The UN fact-finding mission added: Most of the injured visited in Iran were civilians, and the majority of them are women. The report of the UN mission also stressed that the extent of chemical weapons use this time was much greater than on previous occasions, and the victims were also more severely affected.

In the introductory part of this report, and in view of the extent and severity of chemical-weapons deployment, while expressing regret and concern, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar called for serious measures to halt the deployment of such weapons.

After the release of this report, the Islamic Republic of Iran's UN envoy told the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic Iran in an exclusive interview that the report is defective, and expressed regret for the delay in its release.

He said: The UN Secretariat's unjustified delay in releasing this report gave the Iraqi regime the chance to use chemical weapons again after the deployment of such weapons in Halabjah.

Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati added: In spite of the clear admission by the fact-finding mission that chemical weapons have been used more extensively and more seriously, the UN secretary general's stand in this connection appears insufficient.

At the same time, he expressed hope that the secretary general and the Security Council will make the best use of this report and will take the necessary serious measures.

He stressed: The least the United Nations can do is to condemn the Iraqi regime for deployment of chemical weapons, ban any export of chemical materials to Iraq which can be used to manufacture chemical weapons, and establish a permanent supervisory mission on deployment of chemical weapons in the region.

UN Envoy Sends Letter

LD280906 Tehran IRNA in English 0858 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Washington, April 28, IRNA—The Iranian ambassador to the United Nations Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati in a strongly-worded letter to the UN secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, Wednesday criticized the latest UN report on Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons.

Mahallati criticized the "deliberate failure" of the secretary general and his mission to name Iraq as the party using chemical substances in the war.

Mahallati was referring to a report released this week on the findings of a UN team of experts despatched to Iran last month to investigate extensive Iraqi use of chemical weapons, particularly in the Kurdish town of Halabjah. The team later visited Iraq following baseless charges that Iran had also resorted to lethal gases in the war.

The Baghdad regime displayed Iraqi soldiers affected by chemical weapons extensively used by Iraqi troops themselves in the course of Val-Fajr-10 operations in Sulaymaniyah Province last month.

The world was shocked at Baghdad's bestiality in massacring its own people so ruthlessly. The chemical inferno in the northeastern Kurdish city last month took 5,000 civilian lives and mained thousands of other. Worldwide condemnation was voiced over the gruesome Iraqi crime.

Mahallati's letter to Perez de Cuellar said the people of the world have already watched the films of the Iraqi chemical attacks on their televisions and have passed their judgements.

The letter also complained that the UN had failed to send a complete team of experts to Iran to investigate the case. It urged de Cuellar to dispatch a new team to file reports on fresh Iraqi chemical deployment against Iranian troops and border villages.

Mahallati said it is the responsiblity of the UN Security Council to condmen repeated Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons and its bombardment of Halabjah in particular. He urged the council to station two permanent teams in Tehran and Baghdad to investigate future cases of such practices.

ESCAP Urged To Condemn Chemical Attack

LD241832 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 24 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 24, IRNA—Iran's delegation to the 44th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) called on the body to condemn the Iraqi regime's deployment of toxic gases, especially in Halabjah on March 18.

The Iranian delegation comprising officials from the Plan and Budget and Foreign Ministries which took part in the ESCAP session at Jakarta (April 11-20) also proposed that "March 18" should be named "The Day for Global Campaign Against Chemical Weapons".

On March 18, over 5,000 Iraqi Kurdish people were martyred and over 7,000 others wounded when Iraqi warplanes savagely dropped chemical bombs on Halabjah in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province.

The session reviewed activities of ESCAP, its future plans and activities of affiliated institutes.

Head of the Iranian delegation Mehdi Mir-Mo'ezi, who is deputy plan and budget minister for production affairs, delivered a lecture at the ESCAP session on the Islamic Republic's stands in various areas, especially the unbalanced trade exchanges between advanced and developing countries, Third World debts, the Iraqi-imposed war, Iraqi deployment of internationally banned toxic substances, presence of Western fleets in the Persian Gulf, status of women in Islam as well as social and economic changes in Iran.

Local Production of Gas Masks Begins

NC2804104788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Production of anti-chemical gas masks has started at the Iran Yasa factories, which are under the aegis of Iran's National Industries Organization. Highly advanced technology is being used in the production of these masks in order to meet the needs of the combatants of Islam on the fronts and to confront the Zionist enemy's chemical attacks.

In an interview with our correspondent, the managing director of the Iran Yasa factories discussed the design and production of these gas masks. Anti-chemical gas masks for war, he said, are a strategic product produced in a limited number of countries. Because it is a strategic product, its production is extremely difficult.

However, the IRGC brothers assigned Iran Yasa the duty of testing and producing this mask a long time ago. Fortunately, these efforts proved fruitful and these masks are now being produced in limited numbers.

In addition to ending our dependence, we will also be saving large amounts of foreign currency. The final price of the masks is one-eighth the cost of imported masks.

Iraq 'Seeking Excuses' for Residential Attacks

LD271342 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1114 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Station commentary: "Iraq Is Seeking Excuses to Resume Attack on Residential Areas"]

[Text] In the wake of the relative calm in the war of the cities and attacks on civilian areas last week, it seems that the Iraqi regime, by preparing the necessary grounds, is getting ready to resume a new round of atrocities, even though during the same period the Iraqi regime never fully stopped its atrocities and attacks on residential areas.

In this connection, one can mention Iraq's chemical attacks on the villages of Hoveyzeh and Darkhovin.

At the same time, to prepare the ground for the continuation of its atrocities, during the past few days the Iraqi regime has exposed the Baghdad rulers' ill intentions by issuing some false communiques to the effect that Iran has pounded Iraq's border towns.

Also in this connection, that regime's foreign minister, in order to exonerate Baghdad and protect the Ba'thist aggressors from possible global reaction to the attack on residential areas, sent a letter to the United Nations accusing the Islamic Republic of Iran of attacking residential areas.

Of course, the Ba'thist regime always resorts to the same trick whenever it decides to attack civilian areas. It tries to accuse the Islamic Republic—first by making false announcements that Iran has attacked residential areas, then by writing a letter to the United Nations— while hiding the facts of the imposed war, making false claims, and preparing the ground for any acts of adventurism.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly announced that it has never taken the initiative to attack residential areas, and its measures have always had a deterrent and retaliatory nature.

Therefore, the Ba'thist regime's claims are only aimed at seeking excuses for Baghdad to resume attacks on residential areas and to put psychological pressure on the civilian population.

Despite the recent war developments, thanks to the flood of volunteers and their presence on the battlefields, the Ba'thist regime is worried because it expects an attack by Islam's combatants at any moment, and is thus facing a tight bottleneck [as heard].

At the same time, lack of any effort by international organizations to prevent the Baghdad regime from attacking residential areas and deploying chemical weapons, which gradually are becoming part of the Ba'thist regime's standard weapons, has boldened this regime to continue the use of such weapons.

In any case, the trend of the war has shown that attacks on residential areas will not affect the ultimate fate of the war. Experience has shown that firing dozens of missiles in a short period did not change the Islamic Republic of Iran's stands; rather, it made the people more determined to crush the aggressor, and this is certain.

Marivan, Abadan Struck by Iraqi Artillery

LD271449 Tehran IRNA in English 1442 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA—Iraq's long-range artillery shelled residential area of the northwestern Iranian town of Marivan Wednesday morning, wounding five civilians, two of them seriously. Three houses and a shop were also damaged in the enemy shelling.

In related news, a civilian was martyred and eight others wounded when Iraqi artillery fire pounded residential areas in the southern Iranian port city of Abadan tuesday night. Five houses were also damaged.

Meanwhile, an Iranian military official warned here today that the Muslim combatants will not remain silent "if the enemy continues its mischevous acts."

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 3,185

LD271702 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA—The Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out its routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman Tuesday, reconnoitering 20 ships, said a Military Communique here Wednesday.

Communique Number 3185 released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that Iran's Naval gunboats in addition to carrying out their routine assignments yesterday, monitored movement of an Iraqi vessel around Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah oil platforms.

Exchange of artillery fire between Iran's Muslim combatants and Iraqi troops continued throughout the battlefields Tuesday with the former holding the upper hand.

Iranian artillery fire yesterday inflicted heavy casualties and losses on a group of Iraqi soldiers attempting to fortify their positions in Kalalah and Panjwin, western and northwestern sectors.

An Iraqi patrol unit attempting to reconnoitered Iranian positions in Helaleh and Nahr 'Anbar, western fronts, yesterday sustained several casualties and was forced to flee under Iranian artillery fire.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy bunkers, two vehicles and a watch tower were destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces yesterday.

Heavy fire of Iran's Muslim combatants checked Iraqi engineering operations in Sayyid Sadiq, Helaleh and Qasr-e-Shirin and enemy logistical activities in Kuh-Kaj and Nahr 'Anbar Tuesday, concluded the communique.

Opposition Claims Success Against Government

PM271101 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 20-26 Apr 88 p 11

[Unattributed report: "Bright Sun Operations Biggest Offensive Against Khomenyi's Forces"]

[Text] The Mojahedin-e Khalq organization led by Masud Rajavi considers the "Bright Sun" operations carried out over the past few weeks by the National Liberation Army to be the biggest offensive launched against the Iranian forces since clashes with them began.

Sources from this army say that some of the arms and ammunition seized during such operations, which total 100 million dollars in value, have been transferred to rear positions on the front.

The offensive was launched by 15 combat brigades belonging to the "National Liberation Army" against Division 77 of the regular Iranian Army along a front extending 30 km west of Shush in the governorate of Khuzestan.

According to Mojahedin-e Khalq sources, the battles have resulted in 2,000 soldiers from Khomeyni's army being killed, 1,500 wounded, and 508 captured, in addition to 30 from the National Liberation Army being killed and 92 wounded.

It is worth mentioning that a new armored brigade belonging to the National Liberation Army has participated in these battles and operations.

Afghan Refugees Demonstrate in Tehran

LD271602 Tehran IRNA in English 1432 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA—Afghan refugees in Iran in a ceremony held here Wednesday strongly condemned the 10th anniversary of the seizure of power by the Marxist regime in Kabul (April 1978).

A message read by a combatant Afghan lady during the ceremony said that millions of Afghan Muslims have been martyred, wounded or forced to leave their country since the Marxists seized power in Kabul.

The message described the Geneva agreement on Afghanistan as detrimental to the Afghan Muslim people, and noted that compromising the interests of that country's Muslim people is like trampling upon the blood of martyrs and wounded.

Speaking at the event, an Afghan leader mujahidin said the mujahidin are the only people who can decide on the fate of their country. He also lauded the Islamic Republic for according warm hospitality to Afghan refugees.

A 7-point resolution was read at the end of the ceremony calling for the establishment of an Islamic republic in Afghanistan.

In related news, tens of thousands of Afghan refugees and mujahidin staged massive demonstrations in Peshawar, Pakistan today, calling on Afghan Muslims to continue their jihad (holy struggle) against the Marxist regime ruling Afghanistan.

Head of Jamiyat-e Eslami of Afghanistan, Burhanuddin Rabbani, addressing the demonstrators, said that signing of the Geneva agreement was aimed at saving the Soviet Union from its humiliating defeat at the hands of Afghan Muslims.

He criticized arrogant mass media for ignoring the mujahidin's escalated fight against the occupation forces following the Geneva agreement and for acting in a way as if the Afghan issue was settled.

Rabbani said that establishing an Islamic republic in Afghanistan is the main goal of the Afghan muslim people.